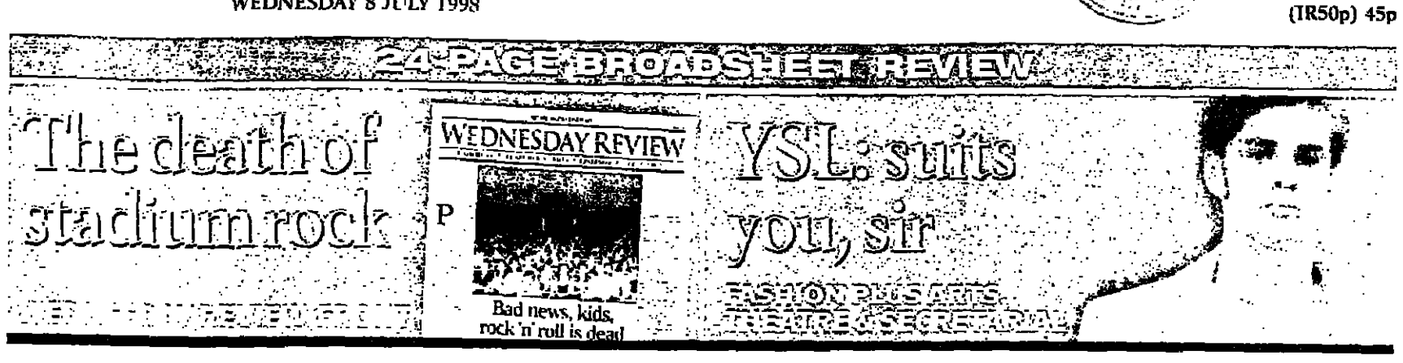
THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,657 WEDNESDAY 8 JULY 1998 (IR50p) 45p



Government hits back in cash for access row as focus shifts to links between lobbyist and Minister

Now the heat is on Mandelson

BY FRAN ABRAMS AND JANINE GIBSON

THE GOVERNMENT went on the offensive as the "cash-for-access" affair continued yesterday, dismissing reports that lobbyists had privileged access in Whitehall and defending the honour of an adviser accused of offering introductions.

But the spotlight fell increasingly on Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio, who has had close links for several years with both the adviser, Roger Liddle, and one of the lobbyists, Derek Draper.

Mr Mandelson and Mr Draper both gave media interviews yesterday after speaking the previous evening about how they should tackle the crisis.

The minister had advised his former employee that the only way to salvage any credibility was to speak publicly about the reports and to apologise for his foolishness.

INSIDE

Suzanne Moore talks to Derek Draper, page 3

Leading article and Ken Livingstone, Review, page 3

Pandora, Review, page 4

Mr Draper had been quoted in the *Observer* newspaper as saying that he was "intimate" with the 17 most important people in the Government, and that Peter Mandelson vetted his column in the *Express* newspaper.

Yesterday, he said the 100 words of quotes in the *Observer* were "cobbled together" from five hours of discussions. He had not claimed ministers' decisions could be altered in return for cash. "I am sorry for any embarrassment I have caused [the Labour Party]," he said. "I accept that I am guilty of being an occasional big mouth, but nothing else."

Mr Mandelson described Mr Draper as "a bit of a showman". And he went on: "He is a bit of a show-off and rather good at selling himself and, in the course of that, making claims and boasts that really don't stack up. But that is not the same as saying that he breaks the rules or breaks the law, or that he is a congenitally dishonest person."

Mr Draper worked for Mr Mandelson between 1992 and 1996, and played a big part in writing the book that his employer co-authored with Roger Liddle, the Downing Street policy official at the centre of the row. Mr Draper wrote some sections of *The Blair Revolution* and researched others.

Mr Draper set up a company, 3C Ltd, which carried out mail orders for the book and set up seminars at which Mr Liddle and Mr Mandelson talked about their work. Since the election, Mr Draper, now a lobbyist, has continued to meet Mr Mandelson and to telephone him regularly. Although there has been no claim that the minister passed on information improperly, he also takes a close interest in Mr Draper's *Progress* magazine and writes regular articles for it.

Mr Mandelson has been friends with Mr Liddle since the two were on Lambeth Council together between 1979 and 1982. Mr Mandelson was instrumental in bringing his friend back to Labour after he left to join the SDP, and is believed to have helped get him appointed to the Downing Street Policy Unit last year.

Yesterday, the Prime Minister appeared to have relaxed his guard over the affair after the *Observer* acknowledged it did not have a tape of Mr Liddle's alleged offer to make introductions for businessmen. Making his first public comment on the affair, he said he would take no action against Mr Liddle without proof of wrongdoing. "I do not think it's right to dismiss someone and ruin their life and their prospects unless there is proof," Mr Blair said.

He added, however, that everyone in government must be wary of people "fluttering around trying to make all sorts of claims".

"Whether they're a minister or an MP or anyone who works for me, who has been guilty of impropriety, then the severest action will taken against those people," he said.

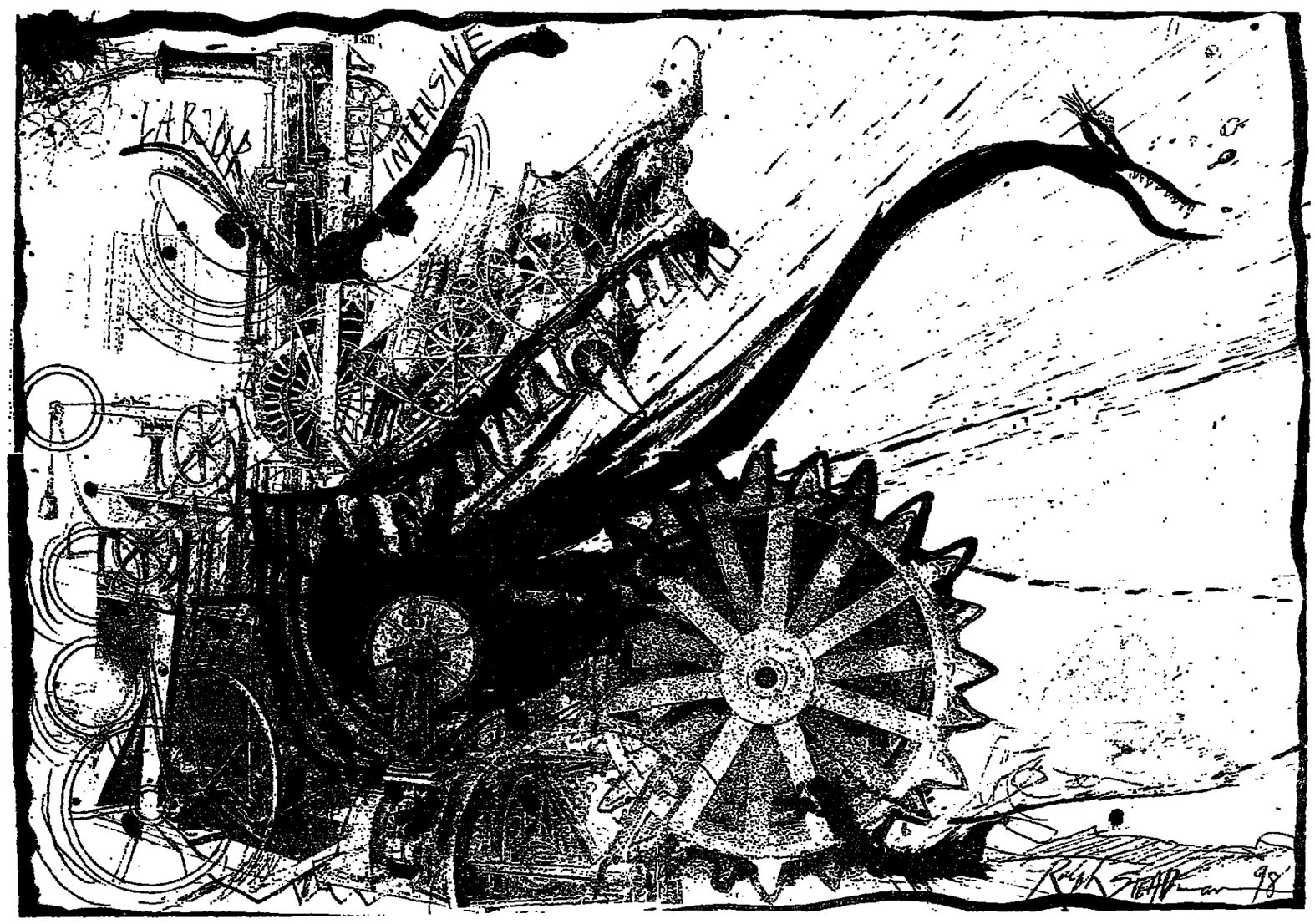
Mr Blair's official spokesman said the three main allegations had all been disproved. A select committee report leaked before publication by a lobbyist had been picked up from a government building where it was freely available, information supposedly leaked before the Chancellor's Mansion House speech was not even in it, and there was no evidence to disprove Mr Liddle's protestations of innocence.

The *Observer* hit back last night at what it described as "ferocious spin-doctoring".

The newspaper wrote to the chief of staff at Number 10, Jonathan Powell, standing by its weekend revelations. In particular, the letter reiterates the alleged conversation held between the journalist Gregory Palast and Mr Liddle, including the remark: "Just tell me what you want and who you want to meet, and Derek [Draper] and I will make the call for you."

The *Observer* also disclosed in the letter that Mr Palast, a chief figure in the investigation, is a former Labour Party adviser. The newspaper's deputy editor, Jocelyn Targett, said: "After a day of ferocious spin-doctoring, our story still stands and serious questions about Downing Street's relationship with lobbyists remain unanswered."

The letter to Mr Powell details Mr Palast's role as a policy adviser to the Labour Party during the year leading up to the 1997 election.



Blair agrees to meet Orangemen

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

TONY BLAIR has agreed to meet Orange Order leaders tomorrow amid apprehension that Orangemen intend to bring the Drumcree stand-off to a head with a large-scale confrontation on Monday.

Tens of thousands of Orange marchers will take to the streets on Monday for their annual commemoration of the Battle of the Boyne in 1690. The prospect of up to 70,000 marchers being available for protests and demonstrations will provide the most exacting test of the authorities' ability to prevent a breakdown of law and order.

The Royal Ulster Constabulary and the Army have been kept at full stretch dealing with disturbances. Police said yesterday that more than 1,000 outbreaks of disorder had been recorded in the 72-hour period up to 6am yesterday. It was announced that 800 extra troops are being drafted into Northern Ireland later this week. The incidents included 246 attacks on the security forces which injured 42 police officers. These included three gun attacks and blast-bomb throwing.

The First Minister, David Trimble, said yesterday: "I am appalled that so-called loyalists have attempted to murder members of the RUC. Orangemen must realise that if this violence continues it will only be a matter of time before we are once again following coffins."

Continuing disturbances were reported last night in Belfast and elsewhere. Belfast city centre had the appearance of a ghost town. While Mr Blair has agreed to see Orange leaders, Downing Street was giving no sign that the Prime Minister proposed to reverse the ruling which prevented Orange marchers going down the Garvaghy Road in Portadown.

The already tense situation in the town deteriorated when gangs of loyalists attempted to hinder access to the Catholic area, whose main entrances are guarded by formidable security force fortifications. The Orange Order said it had not organised the protests.

A high court judge in Belfast said yesterday that very few of the people arrested during the disturbances were genuine protesters. During a bail hearing Mr Justice Campbell said most had criminal records for disorderly behaviour or assault.

The Rev Ian Paisley predicted that Monday's marches would be "the decider". He added: "I think the outcome will be that these men will be going down the road anyway. And they'd be far better letting them down before the 12th of July, because anybody here who has any imagination knows what's going to happen on the 12th of July."

Mr Blair told journalists in London he would be happy to meet the Orange Order. "I think they are, in a very responsible way, trying to resolve the situation. Obviously, any resolution has got to be consistent with the rule of law. The rule of law in the UK must be made paramount and I think a discussion as to how we resolve this would be very worthwhile."

Women and children join Orangemen, page 4

Abiola dies 'day before release from jail'

BY JAMES ROBERTS

THE FUTURE of reform in Nigeria was thrown into turmoil yesterday by the sudden death of the West African country's imprisoned democracy leader Chief Moshood Abiola.

"Abiola died of an apparent cardiac arrest at 4pm," an official statement said. He was reported to have collapsed in the middle of a meeting with Nigerian government officials and members of a high-ranking American delegation.

The US group, led by Thomas Pickering, had just arrived in Nigeria on a mission to test the new regime's democratic intentions and, among other things, secure the chief's release. It was widely expected that he might leave jail as early as today. The future road to democracy in Nigeria was to a great extent dependent on the choices Abiola made as to the conditions under which he would be leaving prison.

Abiola was jailed after winning elections in 1993 and then the following year proclaiming himself Nigeria's President – a decision that angered the country's late military ruler, General Sani Abacha. The main question was whether he would resign his claim to the presidency on his release from jail.

Chief Abiola's reputation was not spotless. He himself had had close links to the military and his own, and their, financial interests were deeply interconnected. But during his years in prison he became a symbol of the struggle against the military dictatorship in Nigeria, which gained further momentum after General Abacha's recent death.

However, it was the fate of Chief Abiola which was widely seen as the crucial test of the democratic credentials of the new government.

His death threatens to leave the democracy movement in Nigeria leaderless.


Abiola: heart attack

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VW has agreed to pay compensation to Jewish concentration camp victims who were used as slave labour in the car company's wartime factories. Page 14

US General in sex scandal
A senior United States General has been permitted to retire with full honour, even though he was the subject of serious accusations of misconduct. Page 15

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City and Frankfurt to join forces
The London and German stock exchanges are link up, paving the way for a single European market. Page 16

BP pulls out of Russian oil deal
Russian plans to raise cash by selling off 75 per cent of the state-owned oil group Rosneft received a serious blow when BP pulled out of the running. Page 19

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David Platt has hung up his boots at 32 to embark on an unprecedented round-the-world voyage of discovery to prepare for a career in management. Page 26

Montgomerie faces fines threat
Colin Montgomerie starts the first round of the Loch Lomond tournament today with the threat of a fine hanging over him. Page 26

WEDNESDAY REVIEW
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Ken Livingstone
"It is a bizarre quirk of fate that Mr Liddle, whose presence at the heart of power is symbolic of changes in the Labour Party, has become the focus of controversy." Page 3

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Britain to reveal nuclear arsenal

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

DECADES OF secrecy over Britain's nuclear arsenal will be broken today in the long-awaited strategic defence review.

For the first time, George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence, will announce the number of nuclear warheads carried on Britain's nuclear force of four Trident submarines. He is expected to indicate that there will be a reduction in the arsenal to a verifiable minimum number of over 100 warheads, with a commitment to reduce the state of alertness on the boats.

The exact number has remained a tightly guarded secret in spite of the ending of the Cold War and the acknowledgement that there are now no obvious "hardened targets" – those with anti-ballistic missile defence systems.

CND officials have kept a close watch on the submarines which surface at Faslane on the Scottish coast. They spotted that HMS *Vigilant* had left on its first patrol, and the fourth submarine, *Vengeance*, is due to depart the Barrow shipyard on 18 September. "I have tried to count the number of warheads being loaded on to submarines, and it is very difficult," said a CND spokesman. "We will be watching the statement very closely for the detail, but I am not expecting lorries to start heading south taking the warheads away."

Even the number of nuclear missiles on each submarine was top secret. It was believed to be 16, but that has now been reduced to 14. Each missile is capable of carrying multiple Trident warheads, but some are sub-strategic and carry single warheads, like cruise missiles.

Declaring the verifiable number of warheads is intended as an important gesture in arms control, although the strategic defence review will make it clear that Britain intends to retain its nuclear force, against the threat of blackmail, and maintain four boats in service, in spite of pressure from Labour CND MPs to make deeper cuts in capability.

The underlying message from the review is that Tony Blair does not intend to give up Britain's role as a big player at the UN Security Council. The Prime Minister gave Mr Robertson backing against pressure from Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, for bigger savings.

Mr Robertson has fought off the Treasury's attempt to slash £2bn off the £22bn defence budget, and will tell MPs that his strategy has withstood the challenge to emerge broadly as it went to No 10 Downing Street.

The strategy is aimed at making Britain's forces harder hitting, and more flexible for operations outside the traditional Nato area. "Force projection" is the buzzword at the MoD.

Mr Robertson has been supported by the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, in beating off Treasury attacks on the number of frigates which can be sent to back up humanitarian missions, and rescue operations, such as the Sierra Leone operation to take off British nationals during the armed coup.

By making his announcement a week ahead of the Chancellor's comprehensive spending review, Mr Robertson will claim the defence review was foreign affairs-led, and not a Treasury cuts exercise.

Twin Peaks hat by Pip Hackett at the Canon Designs for Life show at the Fashion Cafe in London yesterday, in aid of the London Lighthouse charity *Nicola Kurtz*

RA will open all hours to show Monet

BY LOUISE JURY

ORGANISERS of the Royal Academy's new "blockbuster" Monet exhibition are considering opening 24 hours a day to cope with what is expected to be unprecedented demand. They will also be setting a record £9 entrance charge.

The plan was revealed at the Houses of Parliament yesterday along with details of the exhibition, which opens in January. Four scenes of the Palace of Westminster feature in the show.

Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, said that the exhibition "promised to be one of the cultural highlights of 1999" and "another great success" for the RA.

It forms a sequel to the RA's show of Monet's earlier works which drew record crowds of more than 700,000 people in 1990 and heralded the birth of the "blockbuster" exhibition.

Memories of queues around the block have left the Royal Academy considering moves to enable visitors to see the latest selection of 83 paintings.

As well as considering 24-hour opening, the Academy will put out advance tickets in September.

The Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, where the show will open first and which is co-curator, notched up 10,000 advance sales in the first two days of bookings.

The RA's upstairs Sackler galleries will be closed for educational work connected to the exhibition and extra facilities will be provided in the front courtyard.

Familiar paintings of the waterlilies and Japanese bridge in Monet's garden at Giverny will be on show. But MaryAnne Stevens, the RA curator, said many visitors would be surprised by the variety of colour and style in some of the other scenes of the garden.

40,000 unemployed may shun New Deal

BY BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

NEARLY 40,000 unemployed young people on the Government's New Deal programme could be threatened with benefit cuts for dropping out of the system, according to confidential internal predictions.

Some of those will rejoin the scheme to avoid the penalty, while others will have up to 40 per cent of their payments taken away. The large number expected to drop out contradicts repeated claims by ministers that the new deal will be so good there will be little need to force claimants to take part.

The officials estimate also contrasts sharply with assurances given to the Commons by Andrew Smith, Employment minister, that there were no estimates for the number of 18- 24-year-olds who might face sanctions.

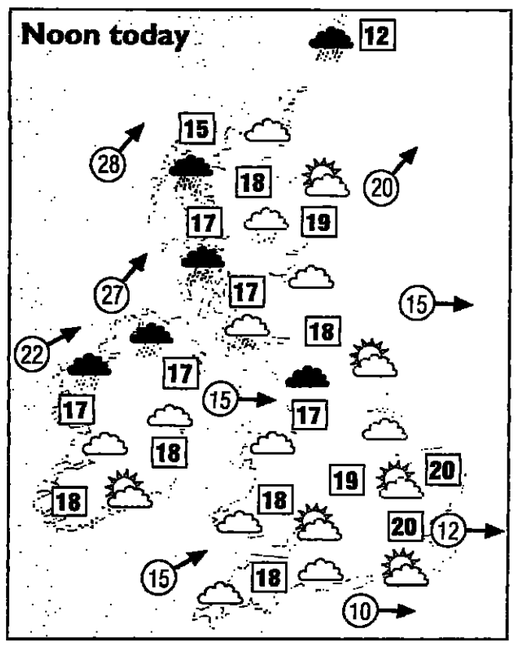
Paul Keetch, employment and training spokesman for the Liberal Democrats, said it was clear the Government expected "large numbers" of drop-outs despite the minister's assertion that there were no such calculations.

After a "gateway" introductory period, the young people on the programme are offered one of four options: subsidised employment; a place on the Government's Environment Task Force; a job in the voluntary services; or full-time training and education. David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education and Employment, says there is no "fifth option" of remaining at home on benefits.

A spokesman for the department said there were no "targets" for sanctions under the programme and it was too early to estimate the numbers who would suffer penalties. He added that the initiative had been so popular that more than one in four of young people on the programme were voluntary entrants.

He said that the programme had been operating nationally since 6 April and only 151 participants had seen their benefits cut.

BRITAIN TODAY



OUTLOOK

Western Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a cloudy, blustery day with rain breaking out, especially this afternoon. Eastern Scotland and northern England will also be mostly cloudy with local drizzle, although North Sea coasts should see a little warm sunshine. Wales and the rest of England will have dry weather with enough breaks in the cloud to allow a few sunny intervals, particularly in the south-east. Late in the day, patchy light rain will reach Wales and western England.

NEXT FEW DAYS

Tomorrow will start cloudy in south-east England with a little rain, but it will turn much brighter from the north. The rest of the UK will be bright and breezy with some good sunny spells, although central and northern Scotland will have showers and a cool wind. Friday will be windy with rain followed by sunny spells and showers, although East Anglia and south-east England may stay dry and quite warm with a little hazy sunshine.

LIGHTING UP TIMES

Belfast	21.58	to	04.59
Birmingham	21.30	to	04.56
Bristol	21.27	to	05.04
Glasgow	22.00	to	04.44
London	21.18	to	04.54
Manchester	21.37	to	04.51
Newcastle	21.44	to	04.40

HIGH TIDES

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London	01:32	6.3	13:53	6.6
Liverpool	11.13	8.6	23.33	8.9
Avonmouth	07:00	12.0	19:24	12.5
Hull (Albert Dock)	06.14	8.0	18.39	8.0
Greenock	12:36	2.9	-	-
Dun Laoghaire	11.41	3.6	23:53	3.8

AIR QUALITY

Today's readings

	NO_2	Pollen	O_3
London	Mod	Mod	Gd
S England	Mod	High	Gd
Wales	Gd	Mod/High	Gd
C England	Gd	High	Gd
N England	Gd	Mod/High	Gd
Scotland	Gd	Low/Mod	Gd
N Ireland	Gd	Low/Mod	Gd

SUN & MOON

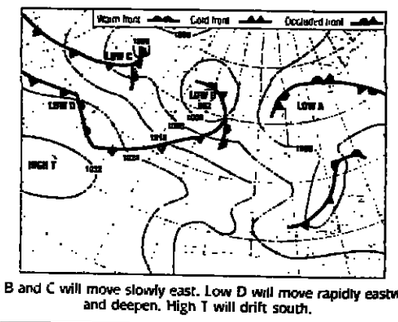
Sun rises:	04.53
Sun sets:	21.18
Moon rises:	20.02
Moon sets:	04.03
Full Moon:	July 9

WEATHERLINE

For the latest forecasts dial **0891 5009** followed by the two digits for your area indicated by the map (right). Source: The Met Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT)

THE WORLD

ATLANTIC CHART, NOON TODAY



Lows B and C will move slowly east. Low D will move rapidly eastwards and deepen. High T will drift south.

THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Akrotiri	S	27	81	Lisbon	C	21	70
Alexandria	S	28	82	Locarno	M	20	68
Algiers	S	33	91	Los Angeles	S	23	73
Alicante	S	32	90	Luxembourg	C	12	54
Amsterdam	C	15	59	Madrid	F	27	81
Anchorage	C	15	59	Majorca	S	30	86
Athens	S	29	84	Malaga	S	30	86
Auckland	S	16	61	Malta	S	25	77
Bahrain	S	43	109	Manila	F	31	88
Bangkok	F	34	93	Mecca	S	43	109
Barbados	F	30	86	Melbourne	S	12	54
Barcelona	Sh	27	81	Mexico City	F	24	75
Beirut	F	28	82	Miami	C	33	91
Belgrade	F	29	84	Milan	C	27	81
Berlin	H	15	59	Mombasa	F	28	82
Bermuda	Sh	25	77	Montreal	C	23	73
Biarritz	C	19	66	Moscow	F	21	70
Bogota	Sh	18	64	Munich	C	21	70
Bombay	S	27	81	Nairobi	C	21	70
Bordeaux	C	22	72	Naples	F	27	81
Brisbane	S	24	75	Nassau	C	27	81
Brussels	F	14	57	New Delhi	F	32	90
Bucharest	F	26	79	New Orleans	S	34	93
Budapest	F	25	77	New York	C	24	75
Buenos Aires	C	16	61	Nice	S	25	77
Cairo	S	30	86	Nicosia	S	30	86
Calgary	F	22	72	Oslo	R	13	55
Cape Town	F	16	61	Paris	C	16	61
Caracas	Th	30	86	Peking	S	33	91
Casablanca	F	22	72	Perth	C	14	57
Chicago	S	28	82	Port Stanley	S	5	41
Christchurch	C	11	52	Prague	R	13	55
Cologne	C	16	61	Reykjavik	P	12	54
Copenhagen	C	14	57	Rhodes	S	27	81
Corfu	S	29	84	Rio de Jan	F	24	75
Dakar	S	26	79	Riyadh	F	40	104
Darwin	S	33	91	Rome	F	28	82
Dhahran	S	43	109	Salzburg	C	19	66
Faro	S	25	77	San Frncs	F	19	66
Florence	S	28	82	Santiago	S	13	55
Frankfurt	H	12	54	Seoul	C	28	82
Funchal	S	23	73	Singapore	F	32	90
Geneva	-	21	70	Stockholm	C	18	64
Gibraltar	S	27	81	Strasbourg	C	20	68
Harare	F	19	66	Sydney	S	15	59
Helsinki	F	22	72	Taipei	C	29	84
Hong Kong	F	28	82	Tel Aviv	F	29	84
Honolulu	F	28	82	Tenerife	S	25	77
Islamabad	Sh	-	-	Tokyo	Sh	30	86
Istanbul	-	24	75	Toronto	C	23	73
Jakarta	-	29	84	Tunis	S	37	99
Jeddah	-	42	108	Valencia	S	33	91
Jerusalem	-	26	79	Vancouver	C	22	72
Jo'burg	-	14	57	Venice	F	27	81
Karachi	-	32	90	Vienna	C	24	75
Kathmandu	-	23	73	Warsaw	C	15	59
Kiev	-	18	64	Washington	C	27	81
Kingston	-	30	86	Wellington	C	13	55
Kuala Lumpur	-	33	91	Zurich	U	19	66
Las Palmas	-	25	77				
Lima	-	18	64				

YESTERDAY

BRITISH ISLES WEATHER

Most recent available figure at noon local time

KEY: C.cloudy; Cl.clear; F.fair; Fg.fog; Hz.haze; M.mist; R.rain; S.sunny; Sl.sleet; Sh.showers; Sn.snow; Th.thunder.

Aberdeen	C	14	57	Carlisle	F	18	64	Liverpool	F	15	59
Anglesey	C	14	57	Dover	C	16	61	London	C	18	64
Ayr	F	15	59	Dublin	C	14	57	Manchester	F	17	63
Belfast	F	14	57	Edinburgh	F	17	63	Newcastle	C	15	59
Birmingham	C	18	64	Exeter	F	18	64	Oxford	F	18	64
Blackpool	F	16	61	Glasgow	C	17	63	Plymouth	C	17	63
Bournemouth	C	17	63	Guernsey	C	16	61	Scarborough	C	14	57
Brighton	C	17	63	Inverness	C	15	59	Southampton	C	19	66
Bristol	C	16	61	Ipswich	C	17	63	Southend	F	16	61
Cardiff	C	18	64	Isles of Sc'y	F	17	63	Stornoway	C	14	57
				Jersey	C	17	63	York	F	14	57

AIR QUALITY

Yesterday's readings

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London	Mod	–	Gd
S England	Mod	–	Gd
Wales	Gd	–	Gd
C England	Gd	–	Gd
N England	Gd	–	Gd
Scotland	Gd	–	Gd
N Ireland	Gd	–	Gd

هكذا من الاصل

Derek Draper, the man at the heart of the cash for access affair, maintains he's done nothing wrong

'I'm a bit of a boaster, bit of a big head, but it's not quite Watergate, is it?'

BY SUZANNE MOORE

WHEN I first met Derek Draper years ago he was already bragging. He was, he told me, going to write a best-selling novel full of political intrigue. "A cross between Jeffrey Archer and Bret Easton Ellis", he announced.

That remark made me immediately suspicious of him. Indeed, anybody who seeks to emulate Jeffrey Archer in any way at all must be peculiar.

I was also suspicious of his friends – fey young men in good suits who worked for various lobbying companies. They could have been Tories but they said they supported the Labour Party. They patronised Derek; they told him his suit looked like the inside of a cheap motel room but they needed Derek because Derek knew the right people. He had worked for Peter Mandelson.

These days Draper wears more expensive suits. He has a Mercedes and a flat in Primrose Hill. He was on holiday in Italy when a friend rang him with "really bad news".

He remembered the "dodgy and weird American" he had met a few times who told him that he represented a New York law firm and had a sister high up in the Clinton administration. He met the American a few times. He introduced him to Roger Liddle, a member of the in-house policy unit, at a reception "because that's the kind of thing that goes on. I made the mistake of assuming that Mr Palast was OK."

During the course of these meetings Draper made the claims that have led to his being suspended from the lobbying firm GPC – Market Access. He has also lost his sinisterly titled newspaper column "Inside the mind of New Labour" in the *Express*.

He may have said some dumb things to Palast who was, in fact, an *Observer* journalist, but he denies doing anything wrong. "What am I being accused of?" he asks. Well, he is being accused of obtaining classified information and passing it on to commercial clients. He is being accused of offering access to government for cash.

"I regret being boastful and bragging but it's not a crime. The guy was an American. He just kept asking me who I knew and if I had any power. It became irritating. Eventually I did get out my pager to show him. I told him that I did go to tea with Geoffrey Robinson because I do. But just because I said I knew these people I was not offering them up for sale."

Draper claims he was entrapped by the *Observer* and that if only they would release the five hours of tape we would see that his remarks have been taken out of context, though it would be so embarrassing to him that he would have to "hide under the duvet. God knows what I said.

"I have signed up to the code that lobbyists sign up to. The *Observer* have every right to investigate this world for abuses but, having spoken to me at length, they have failed to entrap me. OK, I'm a bit of a boaster, a bit of a big head, but it's not quite Watergate is it?"

Derek Draper is a media-savvy, working-class-boy-made-good. But it is hard to see how he can continue as a political lobbyist now *Rui Xavier*

No it is not. Yet the world of lobbying remains so obscure to most people, so dependent on a form of insider dealing, that these accusations remain damaging to this New Labour administration.

What does a lobbyist do exactly? I ask him. "What you do is a bit like what lawyers do." We are sitting in Draper's lawyer's office at this point. "While they guide people through the legal system, we guide companies through the political system.

"A lot of businesses don't know anything about government. Business wants to know how government is thinking, especially this new government. A lobbyist crafts their case for them. And we advise them on who to make the case to. Sometimes you arrange meetings. But that's not selling a meeting. It's just like what a PA might do.

"For instance, the Housebuilders' Federation came to me. They want to build more houses and I know how New Labour thinks, so I came up with the line 'Where will Blair's Sierra man live?' I know how to make these things accessible."

Draper sees his job as that of an intermediary between two different worlds, that of business and that of politics, and he sees no contradiction in this. "There is nothing wrong with being a Labour supporter and doing well in life. I always made the joke that I'm a Labour sell-out and I'm not talking metaphorically."

If Draper has been a bit too flash, a bit too showy for some of his colleagues, he remains unbowed. "I came from a loving but poor working-class background. My parents never had any savings. Now I can help them. I do drink champagne and some people resent it."

But it is not the champagne drinking that many of Draper's colleagues resent, it is his relationship to Peter Mandelson, his almost Thatcherite devotion to the free market and the feeling that many of the sharp young operators in the new administration have no relationship to the grassroots of the party.

This cannot be said of Draper, who has been a member of the party since he was 17 and says he would never do anything to harm it. "I've stuffed envelopes for Gordon Brown. I've been out on the minibuses campaigning."

Yet the suspicion that New Labour is underpinned by a system of patronage remains. "No, there is no patronage," says Draper. "I've never been given anything. I've never asked and I've never been given. If I am being accused of getting access to the government, why didn't I mention Mr Mandelson? You have to understand I know these people. I would never ask them for a single favour."

What he can do, though, is "give things a bit of a push". He is, he says, in the end, accountable to his clients.

It would be very strange, he says, if he hadn't talked to Mandelson about his column "and a load of other people as well". While Mandelson has been publicly distancing himself from his former aide, Draper had just been in the same TV studio as him. Draper claims that Mandelson is a much-maligned character and that none of this has anything to do with him. So what did Peter say then? "He's always said that I was a bit of a showman, that I would get my come-uppance, that my big mouth would get me into trouble one day."

Draper's mother said much the same thing. "She rang up and said, 'Have you done anything wrong?' When I said that I hadn't, she just said 'Oh good. Now keep that big mouth shut.'"

Clearly, Draper is not keeping his mouth shut. He is zooming from TV studio to TV studio to play the part of the mischievous but innocent. He must come out fighting for it is difficult to see how he can retain a career as a lobbyist following such notoriety.

Most of the time he keeps himself frighteningly on-message. Except twice. Once when I ask him about his reputation with women and he stammers and stutters and comes out with a line about how lucky he is to have gone out with some incredible women. "I don't really like personal questions". He hesitates again when I ask him if all power corrupts. "No, it doesn't. I don't think I have that much power. I have a little influence. But that influence, you have to earn it."

Doubtless he has worked hard behind the scenes to get to know the people he claims as friends. Now, though, this media-savvy, working-class-boy-made-good, complains that the press are serving up a story with "Derek the Show Off, Peter the Manipulator and Tony the Tarnished".

Perhaps they are and perhaps Derek has learnt his lesson. "People say that I only care about Derek, Derek, Derek, but now Derek has learnt the hard way that he has to."

There are those who say that whatever Mandelson's public reaction to this, he will always remain loyal to "his boy" as his boy knows where the bodies are buried.

Right now, though, Draper hardly seems chastened at all. He will bounce back I'm sure. Public humiliation seems beyond him. He may not write like Jeffrey Archer but New Labour has found in Draper a figure with as much ambition and braggadocio as Jeffrey Archer. And the odd little scandal never did him much harm.

DEREK DRAPER, A LIFE IN POLITICS

Born: 15 August 1967 in Chorley, Lancashire
Education: University of Manchester, 2:1 in Economics
Career: *1990-1992:* Constituency Secretary to Nick Brown (now government Chief Whip); *1992-1996:* Researcher for Peter Mandelson; *Until Monday:* Express columnist (£70,000 pa); GPC Market Access lobbyist with reputed six-figure salary

Derek Draper

Directorships: Progress Ltd; Modern Media Ltd (publishers of the *Modern Review*, his ex, Charlotte Raven, is also on the board); Prima Europe Ltd, 3c Ltd, Europe 2010 (lobby groups)
Clubs: The Groucho club, favourite media haunt

Mandelson plays down his friendship with former aide

BY FRAN ABRAMS
Political Correspondent

PETER MANDELSON was anxious yesterday to play down his relationship with his former aide Derek Draper as claims that the lobbyist had offered access for cash continued to reverberate.

"He is a bit of a showman. He has a fine intelligence, but sometimes I am afraid he misuses that intelligence. He gets above himself," he said. Listeners might have got the impression Mr Mandelson had barely seen Mr Draper in the past three years, and that his relationship with him had been purely professional even beforehand. In fact, the two are still good friends and although the Minister without Portfolio has been busy since the election, he has still found time to see or speak to Mr Draper at least once a fortnight. Mr Mandelson has denied vetting Mr Draper's column for the *Express*, though yesterday he said he spoke to him about it twice.

Friends of the men say the articles were usually seen by Mr Mandelson's special adviser, Ben Wegg Prosser, a close friend of Mr Draper.

Mr Draper's friendship with Roger Liddle, his former business partner and now a member of the Downing Street policy unit, has continued to be close. Sources say they worked together on Mr Draper's book *The First 100 Days* last year, and that Mr Liddle visited the offices of Prima Europe, the lobbying company of which both were directors, every few days.

Mr Mandelson first met Mr Liddle in 1979, when he won a by-election to become a Lambeth councillor. Mr Liddle was already on the council, and in the days of Militant dominance the two became allies. After their three years together at Lambeth, Mr Liddle left Labour to join the SDP and they drifted apart, only to become friendly again around 1992, as Labour moved to the right.

By then Mr Mandelson's main helper was Mr Draper, who had moved to London after a spell in Newcastle as constituency secretary, and Mr Draper and Mr Liddle became friends. Despite Mr Mandelson's claim that Mr Draper left his employment three years ago, he actually went part-time in 1995, when he started his *Progress* magazine and left in the summer of 1996.

During 1995 Mr Draper researched and wrote large chunks of a book published jointly by Mr Mandelson and Mr Liddle and called *The Blair Revolution*. In an acknowledgement, they wrote: "Both of us owe a special debt to Derek Draper, Peter Mandelson's former assistant, who was closely involved with this project from the start..."

Although the minister no longer has time for the supper parties Mr Liddle held, before the election, at his home in Kennington, for him, Mr Draper and Mr Wegg Prosser, the four are still very much in touch.

No one claims that Mr Mandelson has ever passed any government information improperly to Mr Draper. But Mr Draper's magazine has undoubtedly been helpful to the minister and to others who wanted to float radical ideas without being connected to them.

Synod in call to ban tobacco adverts

BY CLARE GARNER

THE CHURCH of England has entered the smoking debate, calling on the Government to ban all tobacco advertising.

Members of the General Synod have overwhelmingly backed a private members' motion "deploring the continued advertising of cigarettes in Britain and the aggressive marketing of tobacco in the Third World despite overwhelming evidence that smoking kills".

The motion was carried by 375 to 5, with only one member speaking against it. Synod members urged the Government to implement the EU directive banning tobacco advertising, sponsorship and promotion by 31 December 1999.

All point-of-sale advertising and the use of tobacco brand names on non-tobacco products should be outlawed too, they said.

The Rev Christopher Hall, from the diocese of Oxford, who tabled the motion, referred to a recent book on human freedom written by a vicar which concludes "that God only permits us the freedom to do harm to ourselves and to others in order that we can thereby learn the true value of doing and promoting good".

Mr Hall singled out advertising tobacco at sports events – a well-known thorn in the Labour Party's side: "The peer pressure is deliberately created by commercial interests; advertising creates a climate in which smoking is seen as acceptable, as macho, as progressive, as modern. Hence the choice of sport as a prime vehicle for that advertising."

He spoke about the former chancellor Kenneth Clarke's directorship of BAT. "On Radio Four he claimed that tobacco advertising is only aimed to increase market share for a particular brand," said Mr Hall. "That is, dare I say, a smokescreen. Indeed, Mr Clarke pronounced that nostrum with less than his usual ebullient conviction. He did not give the impression he himself believed it."

The Rev John Guille, of the diocese of Winchester, spoke of the success that the island of Guernsey is having in discouraging smoking through offering free nicotine replacement courses and intensive education in schools.

Diana Webster, a lay member for Europe, told the Synod that in Finland, where she lived, the process of banning tobacco advertising began in 1961. It took 14 years to achieve that ban, but six months later, after intensive health education, there was a drop in the number of smokers, particularly among men.

■ Vacancies for the post of diocesan bishop may be advertised in the future following a review by the Church of England into the highly secretive process of appointing its leaders.

Candidates, who under the present system are not allowed to know that they are being considered, may be invited to submit their CV and references, and to attend an interview. Members of the General Synod yesterday voted overwhelmingly in favour of a review of the archaic system. Under the present system, individual appointments are made in the greatest secrecy by the Crown Appointments Commission (CAC), the body which submits two names to the Prime Minister so that one can be forwarded to the Monarch. Last October, Tony Blair exercised his right to reject the two names put forward for the See of Liverpool, and demanded a further two.

An RUC officer hiding beside a wall during violent clashes with loyalist youths in Belfast city centre yesterday — *Dylan Martinez*

Women and children join Orangemen

BY NICOLE VEASH

PORTADOWN, THE epicentre of Northern Ireland's current turmoil, yesterday witnessed the first outbreak of sustained disturbances.

In a carefully planned, military-style operation, the Orange Order – whose planned march through Garvaghy Road is resulting in a current standoff – organised a series of mini-sieges across the town.

Loyalist families gave their support to the Orange Order with dozens of women and children taking part in sit-down road protests. Police were taunted and asked whether they would be forcibly removing babies in their pushchairs.

The prime target was the nationalist enclave of Garvaghy Road which was blockaded throughout the day, stretching the resources of the security forces.

The latest developments added fuel to an increasingly volatile situation which has seen sporadic violence across the province, leading to 800 extra troops being airlifted in.

The violence also lead to complaints of intimidation by Garvaghy Road residents which were backed by Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams.

As phase two of the Orange Order's Drumcree 1998 operation moved into place at 6am yesterday, five organised protests sealed off the main artery roads surrounding the largely Catholic area. Up to 100 Orangemen gathered at each of the designated sites playing Lambeg drums.

Adding to the mounting tension, police discovered three devices which were initially believed to be bombs but later proved to be hoaxes.

One senior Orangeman said: "We are determined to see this out with a peaceful protest. We have sympathisers in the RUC who keep us informed of their movements and let us know when they are at their weakest. We knew that the RUC had been up all night and only just gone to bed. We have deliberately tried to tire them out with small, sporadic demonstrations across the county."

Normal activities in Portadown ground to a halt with many shops and businesses shut down due to fear of further trouble. Traffic was severely disrupted with streets closed by angry Loyalists and police road blocks.

One 28-year-old woman, campaigning with her three-year-old son, said: "If Orangemen want to pass through we will let them. We have no intention of them or their families suffering."

At a road block in the Corcrain estate, a flashpoint interface with the nearby Catholic area, men watched from the pavement as women and children took to the streets.

Using lumps of wood, old dustbins and a dusky pink headboard to block the street, Wendy, 36, said: "We are here to support our Orangemen. The local residents are behind us and understand why we have to block the roads."

Nine-year-old Jenny, a veteran of sit down protests, said: "My mummy has been taking me to these since I was five. I'm not scared of the police."

■ Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, is conducting a "further review" into the case of the two Scots guardsmen jailed for the murder of a Belfast teenager.

James Fisher, 29, from Ayr, and Mark Wright, 24, from Arbroath, were convicted of the murder of 18-year-old Peter McBride while they were on patrol in 1992, and sentenced to life.

BBC presenter Adrian Chiles, who's mother is from Croatia, was 'in heaven' when Croatia beat Germany *Peter Jay*

Genetic crops 'will kill off the songbirds'

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

ENGLISH NATURE, the Government's wildlife agency, yesterday called for a three-year moratorium on the commercial growing of genetically modified crops in Britain, saying that they could damage farmland wildlife "catastrophically".

Their introduction could lead to the disappearance of the skylark and other well-loved birds from Britain's fields, the agency said, in an intervention which dramatically intensified the debate on genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

The United Kingdom's first bioengineered crop is due to be grown and harvested next year, but the whole process should be halted while essential research is carried out on the possible effects of such crops on the environment, English Nature said.

In particular, it fears the use of deadlier and stronger weedkillers with crops genetically engineered to tolerate them could wipe out all other plant, insect and bird life over wide swaths of land, and could be the "final blow" for bird species already in serious decline because of intensive farming.

The agency's intervention comes as the GMO debate in Britain has grown increasingly bitter, with a growing number of cases of environmental activists uprooting experimental crops from their trial sites – of which there are now more than 300 in Britain. In the last month, the Prince of Wales has made a vociferous protest against GMOs, while the giant agrochemicals company Monsanto has launched a £1m advertising campaign in their favour.

English Nature wants the rules regarding their release to take account of their potential ecological effects, and it wants itself and the government wildlife agencies in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to be directly represented on the committee that vets GMO releases.

But it is the call for a moratorium that will prove most embarrassing to the Government, which is on the point of giving a "seed listing", or licence for commercial use, to the first genetically modified crop to be available for British farmers.

This is a herbicide-tolerant oilseed rape, developed by the Belgian firm Plant Genetic Systems, a subsidiary of the biotechnology company AgrEvo. The new plant is waiting for clearance of the herbicide which has been developed to go with it, a decision that will lie with the Farming minister Jeff Rooker.

But English Nature says it should wait for the results of more than 20 current research projects into the environmental effects of using such new organisms and the chemicals that go with them.

"The introduction of GMOs ... may be a revolution as profound as the introduction of intensive farming in the Forties," said Brian Johnson, the agency's adviser on GMOs.

Although biotechnology companies have said that farmers will need to use smaller amounts of weedkiller with herbicide-tolerant plants, Dr Johnson said it was not a question of amount, but of impact.

"At the moment, selective herbicides are used, which leave some other plants alive, so that birds and their chicks can feed on the seeds ... Crops engineered to be herbicide-tolerant allow the use of broad-spectrum herbicides which kill absolutely everything."

Croatian passion forged by civil war

BY TREVOR HAYLETT

FOR A nation of less than five million inhabitants, Croatia has gained a great deal of support at this World Cup. A new country, seeking an identity after the trauma of a brutal civil war, they conform to our ideal of the underdog, while, as a vote-winning exercise, beating Germany at football is never a bad thing.

Nor can you help but warm to the passion displayed by the Croatian fans whose distinctive red and white tablecloth colours have added another dimension to the pageant being played out in France these past five weeks.

An echo of the raucous support which greeted their remarkable three-nil triumph in Lyons over the Germans last weekend was also heard in the Cro's Nest bar in Toronto, at The Academy in London's Holland Park, and at all those other places around the world where Croatians gather.

Tonight they will all meet up again to see if the little Balkan country which did not even exist when England were enjoying success at the 1990 tournament and which is competing at the World Cup for the first time, can overcome France.

There is a relationship between player and follower that puts other countries to shame. In the eastern French town of Vittel, temporary home to the Croatian team, players have visited local bars to mingle with fans, buy them drinks, and in some cases provide tickets and money for accommodation.

"The players are very close to the fans, it is one of the reasons why there is such a fantastic atmosphere in our camp," said Darko Tironi, a spokesman for the Croatian Football Federation.

It is a phenomenon not peculiar to football. There is also loud and colourful support for their tennis player Goran Ivanisevic and for the basketball team (silver medallists at the 1992 Olympics).

"Imagine what it would be like if people here weren't allowed to call themselves English until seven years ago," said the BBC TV and Radio 5 presenter, Adrian Chiles. "They celebrate everything Croatian. It can't be denied also that through sport, it helps them to forget the atrocities of a few years ago."

Mr Chiles owes his Croatian allegiance to his mother, who came to this country in 1960. He found himself in a Croatian enclave in Toronto last weekend and part of the party that greeted the victory which gave Croatia a place in tonight's semi-final in Paris.

"A guy took me to this pub, the Cro's Nest, and the place was packed with ex-pats. I was praying beforehand that we would just score a goal. I would not have minded then how many we lost by, but to beat Germany was just fantastic."

■ David Ginola, the Tottenham Hotspur footballer, is to join the international campaign against land mines, the International Red Cross confirmed yesterday. Diana, Princess of Wales devoted much of her time to the cause.

World Cup, pages 27-30

IN BRIEF

Girl, 4, dies in tractor tragedy

A FOUR-YEAR-OLD girl was fatally injured in front of her parents when her father accidentally drove a tractor over her, police said yesterday. Attempts were made by the parents, police and ambulance paramedics to revive the child, but she was declared dead shortly after arriving at hospital.

It is understood the girl suffered massive head injuries after falling under the wheels of the tractor yesterday afternoon on a farm in the village of Ramsden, near Witney, Oxfordshire.

Shake-up call for prison work

A RADICAL overhaul of employment opportunities in jail would help rehabilitate inmates and generate extra income for prisons, a report said yesterday. Haphazard provision of workshops and an confused accounting system meant too many jails were not making the most of existing work space, the National Advisory Council for Boards of Visitors said in their report.

Five accused of doctor's murder

FIVE PEOPLE have appeared in a South African court charged with killing a British surgeon.

Spencer Alexander, from Aberdeen, who worked in a surgery in Empangeni in KwaZulu-Natal, was gunned down while on an emergency call last summer. The accused, who include two juveniles, pleaded not guilty.

Children in care unaware of rights

A THIRD of the 60,000 youngsters being looked after by the state do not know how to voice complaints, a survey revealed yesterday. Those in children's homes are more likely to know their rights than those fostered by families. The report, *Remember My Messages* by the Who Cares? Trust, surveyed 2,000 children in care.

KEN LIVINGSTONE

"Parliamentary democracy has long ceased to be a level playing field – you don't have to be rich to play, but it helps"

—THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 3

Slander doctor jailed for contempt

BY CATHY GORDON

A DOCTOR accused by a former colleague of setting out to ruin him was yesterday jailed for three months for contempt of court.

Mr Justice Tucker, at the High Court, ruled that "exceedingly devious" Alanah Houston had flagrantly and deliberately flouted court orders not to remove her assets.

The move to have her sent to jail for contempt was made by Dr Malcolm Smith, who successfully sued Houston in 1991 for slander and won £150,000 in damages, later reduced to £50,000 on appeal. Dr Smith, who had shared the Hunsbury surgery in Northampton with Houston, started the slander proceedings after his colleague accused him in 1989 of sexual harassment of her and female staff.

Houston was also ordered to pay his legal costs, but Dr Smith said that although he was the winner in the slander case he has been left in debt and out of work.

At the start of the hearing Dr Smith, 42, said his former colleague had a "pathological" hatred of him and wanted to bring about his financial ruin.

Houston, of Yardley Gobion, near Towcester, Northants, was accused of being a "cunning" woman and an "inveterate liar".

THE INDEPENDENT
Wednesday 8 July 1998

Homeless may be swept off streets

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

PEOPLE WHO sleep on the streets could face moves to clear them off the streets as part of a £145m programme announced yesterday.

The Prime Minister, Tony Blair, said the sight of a rough sleeper bedded down for the night in a shop doorway, or on a park bench, was "one of the most potent symbols of social exclusion in Britain today."

A "street tsar" will spearhead the action by a new body to increase the accommodation for rough sleepers, with the task of cutting the numbers on the streets by two-thirds to below 100 by 2002 and to near zero after that.

"This is no cosmetic street cleaning but a real chance to deal with the problem once and for all," the Prime Minister said as he published a report by the Government's social exclusion unit on rough sleeping.

Some charities complained about the number of free soup "runs" which were keeping rough sleepers on the streets, away from hostels. Hilary Armstrong, the Local Government minister, said there had been three soup runs at 11pm one evening.

The report seeks to give rough sleepers a fresh chance to get off the streets, but MPs saw the influence of New York's drive to sweep "panhandlers" off the streets with "zero tolerance" in Mr Blair's initiative.

The report found that an increasing proportion of young homeless, now 60 per cent, in the West End of London, were Londoners, outweighing the numbers from Scotland and Ireland. Physical or sexual abuse lies behind a significant number being on the streets.

The exclusion unit said the Government "has no present plans" to change the powers of the police to make it an offence to sleep rough, but it warned that anyone refusing to take up accommodation once it was available could be forced off the streets.

"Since the explicit intention of the policy is to deliver clear streets, the Government believes that the public will feel they have a right to expect hostel places to be taken up as more become available. The new body should monitor this closely and if new powers are needed to ensure places are taken up the Government will reconsider the matter," the report said.

The tough tone of the Government's plans startled Labour MPs and even caused alarm among Tory leaders, who said they had tackled the issue in the 1980s but had drawn the line at coercion.

"There is a danger of exaggerating the problem. We are against coercion. We don't think it is the right approach," said Richard Ottoway, a Tory environment spokesman.

Louise Casey, deputy director of the housing charity Shelter, said she was delighted Mr Blair had launched the report, but she warned against any plans to force rough sleepers off the streets. "Coercion doesn't work. People just hide in different doorways."

Shaks Ghosh, chief executive of the homelessness charity Crisis, also welcomed the report but criticised the suggestion that hostel places might only be offered to rough sleepers if they signed up to the New Deal job-finding package.

The report says once the New Deal is up and running, the London body, with hostel providers, "might want to look at making participation in the programme a condition of the hostel place".

Ms Ghosh said: "I would question the wisdom of that. If you are homeless you really need to concentrate on getting your life sorted out, your relationship, and somewhere to live." Finding a job should only come after that, she said.

Ms Armstrong, who will chair a ministerial committee on rough sleeping, said new police powers were a possibility once sufficient accommodation had been provided. But she said such a prospect was "distant".

She added that coercion of rough sleepers was possible because the Government was determined to crack the problem of rough sleeping and needed to get "an effective response" to its plans.

She said: "We don't feel at this stage that coercion is the right approach."

■ Young people sent to jail were four times more likely to be homeless after release than when they were sentenced, according to a study by the Howard League for Penal Reform.

Danny, aged 17, watching a family of ducks on the Embankment, London. He has been sleeping on the streets for eight months *Tom Pilston*

'We should not be forced into hostels'

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

WRAPPING HIMSELF more tightly in the worn red blanket that is one of his few possessions, Danny lights another cigarette and watches the tourists strolling along the Embankment.

He is 17 and has been sleeping on the streets for eight months. His parents threw him out last year and he made straight for London, thinking life would be easier there.

He has stayed in a couple of hostels but finds it hard to deal with their rules and prefers to doss down in a doorway. "I don't want to stay in a hostel because they say you have to be in at a certain time and get up at a certain time, and that's just not on," he said.

"The Government shouldn't force people to go into hostels if they don't want to. I've seen loads of empty buildings that have been boarded up and they should let homeless people stay in them while they decide what to do with it [the building]."

He says he prefers the freedom of being on the streets and talks to passing tourists for company.

At the tube station a few yards further down, Richard, 27, is sitting cross-legged on a dirty blue sleeping bag and asking passers-by for spare change. He has been sleeping rough for 11 years and says he would find it hard to return to a "normal life". "When I first came to London I found work and lived in squats, but I got into drugs and every time I got a job I made a mess of it and had to leave.

"Now I just sleep in the street. The hostels are dirty; there are three or four people in a room and the staff really look down on you.

"The rules are bad enough, but why should these people make you feel inferior just because you are homeless?

"If they force people to stay in hostels it will be like sending them to prison."

But Andy, 33, who is selling The Big Issue on Hungerford Bridge, thinks that the number of hostels should be expanded – if they could be improved. "I stayed in a bail hostel when I came out of prison and I was clean and had dealt with my drug problem. But by the time I left there, I was back on drugs again and they evicted me.

"I have been sleeping on the streets for the last few weeks but it is awful. I have just come out of hospital after being stabbed in the leg and someone tried to slash my wrist before that.

"It is frightening out on the streets, but if they could clean up the hostels and make them safe places then it would be a good idea. The question is, can they do that?"

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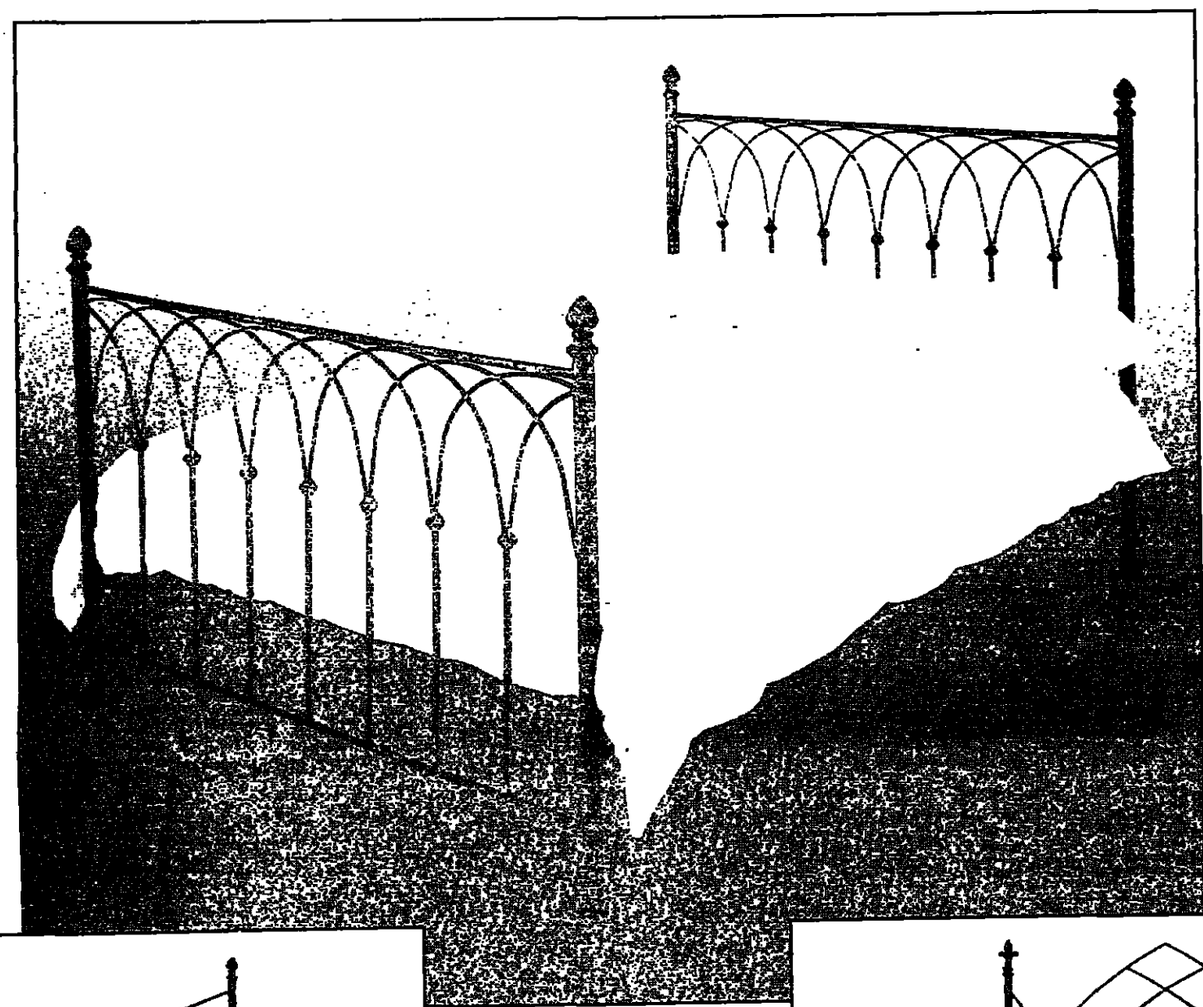

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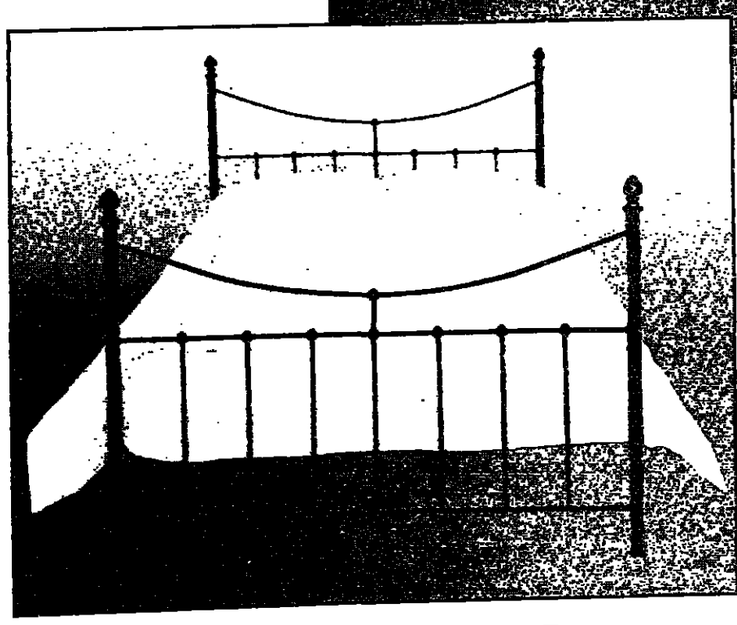

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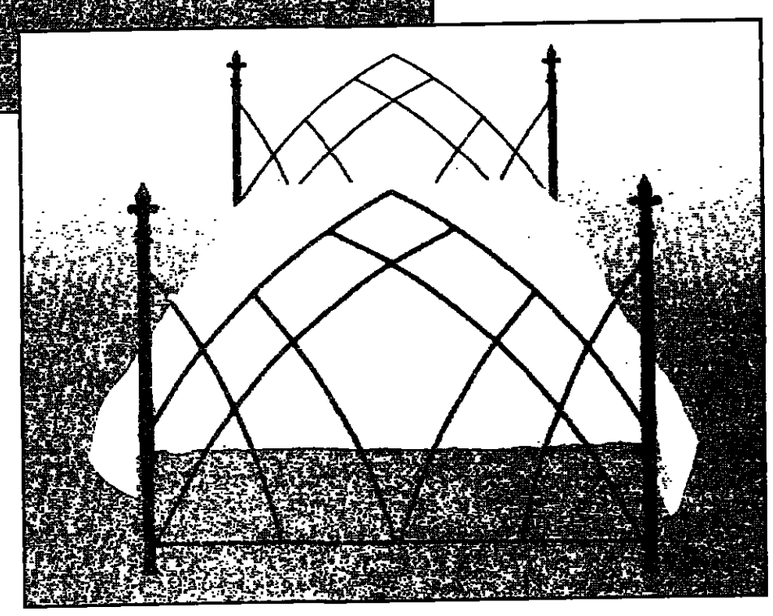

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THE INDEPENDENT
Wednesday 8 July 1998

The stamp of Stalinism and the stirrings of a Tory revival

THE SKETCH

MICHAEL BROWN

IN THE ABSENCE of the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, the focus of attention was the Tory opposition motion on the refusal of the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, to allow his department to co-operate with the Foreign Affairs Select Committee investigation into the Sandline/Sierra Leone affair.

The new shadow Leader of the House, Sir George Young, who has had more sackings and re-appointments than most, made an excellent speech in the finest traditions of standing up for the rights of Parliament.

Sir George, tall, languid and unassuming, is one of the great survivors of right-wing purges in the Conservative Party. He first saw junior ministerial office in 1979 but was dumped by Baroness Thatcher in the mid-1980s. He has street credibility with Labour MPs because he opposed the poll tax in his 1987 election address. Some years later Lady Thatcher re-appointed him to government and he continued onwards and upwards to cabinet office during the Major years.

The Foreign Affairs Select Committee has been stymied by Robin Cook, and his hapless civil servant Sir John Kerr is getting thoroughly fed up with Mr Cook's dirty business. The committee, although having a Labour majority, has a phalanx of decent parliamentarians from all sides who have reported to Parliament their frustration at being unable to carry out their investigation.

Sir George rightly changed the normal Conservative-versus-Labour battle into a fight between Parliament and the executive and his contribution was the more effective as a result.

The senior parliamentarians on both sides, including most select committee chairmen, attended the debate. It was just a shame that Opposition backbenchers who, in spite of their depleted ranks, still number over 160, could muster only 25 of their number to support Sir George. I gather all Opposition MPs now have pagers. Why on earth did they not all get messages to pile into the chamber?

I would also have been inclined to widen the motion to include the Derek Draper affair and I know that the suggestion was put to William Hague's parliamentary private secretary. Tories have still not learnt that they are now in opposition.

They do not get many opportunities to score boundaries but in any debate which hinges on the overmighty executive versus Parliament they are always on to a winner. Sir George and his admirable deputy, Sir Patrick Cormack, did not let their troops down. The troops, if they can not attend in the lobbies, should at least turn up for the debates.

Ann Taylor, the Leader of the House, who looks like a commissar left over from 1970s Russia, behaved in a thoroughly Stalinist way and got the backs up of three Labour members of the committee. Andrew Mackinlay (Thurrock), Diane Abbott (Hackney North and Stoke Newington) and the old-timer Ted Rowlands (Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney) looked most uncomfortable and let their displeasure be known.

This Government, which is undoubtedly still popular and competent in so many areas, has a blind spot when it comes to its relationship with Parliament. Mrs Taylor reflected that blind spot in her speech, which was contemptuous of the House.

I used to deride the former Foreign Secretary Francis Pym, who was sacked by Lady Thatcher for suggesting that big majorities were bad for governments. But he is being proved right.

The lustre of this Government has shown the first serious signs this week of being dulled, with the Derek Draper affair underlining the arrogance at its centre. Readers may rightly say no Tory who served in the last government has any right to talk about arrogance, but at least I recognise it when I see it.

When the history books are written in 20 or 30 years, 7 July 1998 will be remembered as the day the first faltering, imperceptible steps of a Tory recovery were taken.

Lords set for clash on tuition payments

EDUCATION

BY DAISY SAMPSON

THE HOUSE of Lords yesterday inflicted its largest defeat on the Government since it came to power last year and threatened a constitutional clash with the Commons.

Labour rebels joined Opposition peers in the lobbies to help inflict the latest blow on the Government over student fees in the Teaching and Higher Education Bill.

By effectively rejecting the Bill again and sending it back to MPs, it became the first Bill in 30 years that the Lords has sent to the Commons for a third time. It raised the stakes over the Government's plans to remove the right of hereditary peers to sit and vote in the Lords.

Peers voted, by 319 votes to 108 votes, to demand that UK students from outside Scotland should not be charged fourth-year tuition fees at Scottish universities – in line with treatment of Scots students.

Lord Richard, the Leader of the Lords, has made it clear the Government will seek to reverse the defeat in the Commons, challenging the peers to backdown or face a gruelling summer of late sittings to get the Bill on to the statute book.

The Government's policy for tuition fees had been forced through the Commons, in spite of a Labour backbench rebellion. In a passionate speech Lord Shore of Stepney, a cabinet minister in the last labour government, attacked the Education minister, Baroness Blackstone and her policies.

He described his "feelings of repugnance" about the discrimination against students and said he felt sure that, if they could, more of his colleagues in the Commons would have voted against the policy. In an emotional finale he ordered the minister to "take this back and think again."

Peers who backed a fresh amendment, sponsored by Lord Steel of Aikwood, leader of the Liberal Democrats in the Lords, also stressed the move should not be a precedent for four-year courses outside Scotland.

Lord Mackay of Ardbrecknish (Con) a former Scottish mathematics teacher, moved Lord Steel's amendment, calling the Government's proposed legislation "bogus".

Under the new grants scheme Scottish teenagers or any other European Community teenagers wishing to go to Scottish universities would pay £3,000, whereas English, Welsh or Northern Irish teenagers would have to pay £4,000 to attend the same universities.

Lord Mackay said that the argument that it is only "little rich kids" from England that wish to attend universities north of the border was nonsense.

Brian Jenkins (left), MP for Tamworth in Staffordshire, joining Morris dancers yesterday at Westminster, where they were protesting against construction of the Birmingham northern relief road *Michael Stephens*

Cook agrees to deal over telegrams

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

ROBIN COOK was invited last night to appear before the Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee next week in a compromise over the arms-to-Sierra Leone affair to head off a Tory attack in the Commons.

The committee, chaired by Labour's Donald Anderson, wrote to the Foreign Secretary accepting a compromise floated by the Foreign Office to allow the MPs to see a summary of some secret telegrams they had demanded. Senior members of the committee will be allowed to see the telegrams to verify the summaries, but the committee is being asked not to publish the originals.

A spokesman for the Foreign Office said: "Our aim has always been to be as helpful and open with Parliament as possible without publishing material prejudicial to the Legg inquiry before it has reported. We are happy to look at ways of achieving that objective."

The move by the committee, which the Tories will see as a climb-down by Mr Cook, came as the Tory leadership used a full-scale Commons debate to attack the Government for arrogance in refusing to hand over the telegrams at the centre of allegations about the supply of arms by a private consultancy, Sandline International, to help overthrow an illegal junta.

Opening the debate, Sir George Young, shadow Leader of the Commons, widened the Tory attack to include the "cash-for-access" affair. Sir George said: "What would be unacceptable is for a select committee to knock on the Government's front door, ask for information to which it is entitled and be refused, while those with close connections with the Government can, it is alleged, get information to which they are not entitled from the back door."

The Tories attempted to use the Commons debate to raise cross-party support for the party's attack on the Government's treatment of the Commons, and carefully drafted its motion for debate by using the same wording as a report signed by Labour MPs on the foreign affairs committee. Sir George said Tony Blair was moving towards a "more presidential style of government" with unparalleled steps being taken to "muzzle the independence" of Labour MPs.

The Tory motion said it was "wrong in principle for the executive to seek unilaterally to impose prior conditions on the release of information properly sought by a select committee in pursuit of the responsibilities given to it by the House."

The aim was to embarrass Labour MPs who signed the report, and opening the debate, Sir George called for a free vote to allow Labour backbench MPs to express their view.

But Labour called the Tories' bluff, by tabling a counter-motion supporting the Foreign Secretary and making it clear that Mr Cook remained ready to make the telegrams available to the committee - on a confidential basis.

The top civil servant at the Foreign Office, Sir John Kerr, has warned disclosure of the papers could prejudice any disciplinary hearings against officials resulting from Sir Thomas's inquiry. But this has not satisfied the committee.

THE HOUSE

Mad cow cost to rise to £3.5bn

The final cost to the taxpayer of the BSE crisis is set to top more than £3.5bn by the year 2000, ministers were told yesterday in a report by the National Audit Office (NAO). This shows that some £2.5bn has already been spent by governments on BSE-related schemes in the two years since the crisis began. The NAO estimates that it will take a further £1bn to see the schemes implemented to deal with the crisis over the next two years.

Gulf war petition

A group of Gulf war veterans and their families yesterday handed in a petition of more than 4,000 signatures at 10 Downing Street, demanding a public inquiry into the so-called Gulf war syndrome. More than 2,000 British veterans have reported suffering from a variety of debilitating symptoms since serving in the war, which ended in 1991.

Today in Parliament

■ **Commons:** Questions to the Prime Minister; Plaid Cymru debate on economy of disadvantaged areas of Wales; Labour debate on illegal encampments; remaining stages of the Competition Bill.
Lords: Committee stage of the Scotland Bill.

Robinson faces new probe over links with Maxwell

STANDARDS

BY BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

MPs YESTERDAY instructed Sir Gordon Downey, Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, to conduct further investigations into the affairs of the embattled Paymaster General Geoffrey Robinson.

The Commons Privileges and Standards Committee presented Sir Gordon with additional material about Mr Robinson's relationship with the late Robert Maxwell. The committee adjourned until next Tuesday to give Sir Gordon an opportunity to sift through it.

Some members believe the information will prove that the millionaire Paymaster General breached the rules of the House of Commons.

Tories believe he will eventually be forced to resign, but his friends last night said they were "relaxed" about the allegations and argued that the minister would be vindicated. One member of the committee predicted the report would be published next week.

It is alleged that Mr Robinson failed to declare directorships in the register of MPs' interests. Conservatives claim that he failed to declare a £200,000 payment allegedly received from Hollis Industries.

The company was taken over by Mr Maxwell, former chairman of the Daily Mirror group. It went bankrupt in 1991.

Mr Robinson has denied receiving the money and insisted the company's accounts were wrong.

The Paymaster General was also accused of failing to declare £150,000 received from Central & Sherwood, which was owned by Mr Maxwell. He has admitted receiving the money but argued that it was too late to meet the deadline for the annual publication of MPs' interests.

David Heathcoat-Amory, shadow Treasury minister, said he had provided the information which he believed pointed to potentially serious breaches of the regulations. "It's like peeling an onion. We are finding more all the time."

Mr Robinson's relationship with the late media tycoon was still unfolding. "Every time parts are investigated, other issues come up. This further delay should help the committee get to the bottom of this tangled relationship, none of which has been disclosed to the House as required."

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Saving energy

UP TO 30,000 homes may be insulated by New Deal trainees in the current year, Calum MacDonald, a Scottish Office minister, said last night. New Deal workers who choose energy efficiency work are likely to carry out draught-proofing and loft, tank and pipe insulation, Mr MacDonald told Malcolm Chisholm (Lab, Edinburgh North and Leith).

Ulster costs

PUBLISHING the verbatim records of the proceedings of the new Northern Ireland Assembly is estimated at £800,000 per annum, Paul Murphy, a Northern Ireland Office minister said. He told Harry Barnes (Lab, North East Derbyshire) that the figure given was based on the assumption of one meeting per week for 40 weeks of the year.

School rules

THE DEPARTMENT for Education and Employment will issue guidelines this month on the training of teachers in restraining children. Estelle Morris, a minister, told Dr Vincent Cable (Lib Dem, Twickenham) that Section 550A of the Education Act comes into force in September and will teach teachers when physical intervention would be appropriate.

هكذا من الاصل

The Sair Inn, Huddersfield, is a Japanese brewery's idea of a typical British local. A replica will be built on the slopes of Mount Fuji *John Angerson*

Japanese search for ideal pub ends in Huddersfield

By Esther Leach

WHEN THE Japanese decided they wanted to re-create the quintessential English pub in their homeland they knew just where to go: Huddersfield.

While the flagstone floors and wood-panelled walls of the 250-year-old Sair Inn, perched on a hilltop in West Yorkshire, will probably look rather strange nestling in the foothills of Mount Fuji, representatives of the Japanese brewery Alph Incorporated were adamant that this was just what they wanted.

Ron Crabtree, 60, the landlord, said yesterday after a visit from the Japanese: "They must have taken more than 200 pictures of every detail in the pub.

"They snapped away at the ceilings, walls and floors and all the bottles lined up on the shelves. They even went on their hands and knees taking pictures of the logs of wood we keep under the seats. I'm not sure exactly what they intend to do with all these pictures.

"Not much was said between us because they didn't speak very good English. I don't think they wanted to build a replica of the Sair but they wanted to include many of the features in their own pub."

The Japanese company found the Sair Inn in a good pub guide and, through an interpreter, asked for permission to photograph everything.

Perhaps the only thing they didn't capture on film was the pub ghost, a former landlord said to wander the rooms. Hilary Cooper, Mr Crabtree's partner, says she has seen it.

Mr Crabtree, the landlord for 16 years, is restoring the former one-room pub which was extended into three rooms by taking over a weaver's cottage next door in about 1820. So far he has revealed the original flagstones on the floor as well as the wood-panelling on the walls and is beginning work on the beamed ceilings.

"I'm going to write to them to find out how they are doing," Mr Crabtree added as he sipped a pint of his own award-winning brew, Linsit.

The BMA annual conference

Viagra patients will clog hospitals

By Jeremy Laurance
Health Editor

DEMAND FOR Viagra is likely to be so great when it is licensed later this summer that it could cost the National Health Service over £1bn a year and overwhelm the service, doctors warned yesterday.

Efforts to contain the enormous cost could lead to "sex by postcode" as health authorities ration the drug. Rumours about its beneficial effects on the sexual performance of "normal" men mean it could become a principal drug of abuse.

The British Medical Association called on the Government to set up an urgent review of the way new, expensive drugs are introduced to prevent a disaster. Speakers at the association's annual conference in Cardiff warned that hospital clinics could become clogged with patients, drug budgets would be exhausted and other services would suffer.

Derek Machin, a consultant urologist from Liverpool, said there was no medical test for impotence but previous treatments which relied on injections into the penis were off-putting and there had therefore been no reason to doubt that men claiming to be impotent were telling the truth.

"We are now faced with an entirely new situation. For the first time we have an oral preparation [a pill] which is perceived as enhancing the performance of already potent men. Viagra will become a major drug of abuse."

Mr Machin said Viagra was a "splendid drug" and there was likely to be demand from women as well as men. One in ten men are estimated to suffer from impotence and if only 10 per cent of those were prescribed an average of two tablets a week at £6 a tablet the cost to the NHS would be £125m per year.

If a higher proportion of men were treated "the cost could go quite easily over £1bn a year", he said. The total NHS drugs budget is about £4bn a year.

Mr Machin told the conference: "The cost will be enormous. I for one believe there are more important priorities for spending these very large sums of money."

Ministers have pledged that Viagra will be available on the NHS but have yet to decide whether it will be prescribed freely by GPs or restricted to consultants. Mr Machin said there were 400 consultant urologists in the UK – specialists in the mechanics of reproduction – and if they were made responsible for prescribing the drug it would "completely overwhelm the urology service".

There was no good clinical reason to restrict prescribing to consultants and to do so would amount to rationing of the drug, he said.

Dr Ian Banks, a GP from Northern Ireland and an expert in men's health said impotence had wide effects, not just on the men involved but on their partners and could lead to alcoholism and suicide.

Dr John Chisholm, chairman of the BMA's GPs committee, said the introduction of other expensive drugs had caused similar problems of rationing by postcode.

"Sex by postcode is just as bad as any other treatment by postcode. If a drug is of benefit to patients we believe extra funding is required."

Physician-aided suicide on agenda

DOCTORS MUST decide whether to support physician-assisted suicide for terminally ill patients who want to die, the British Medical Association said yesterday.

The BMA voted to hold its first conference on the ethics of helping patients to end their lives, despite fears that even discussing it could undermine trust. Speakers at the conference in Cardiff said it was essential doctors reached consensus on an issue that divides society.

Present BMA policy opposes physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia. John Marks, the former BMA chairman, said he had hastened the deaths of many patients. "I have given ... sometimes huge doses of drugs to ease their pain, knowing full well it might shorten their lives."

Although he was neither for nor against physician-assisted suicide, he was in favour of a debate.

That view was opposed by doctors who warned that a discussion could be dominated by unrepresentative elements, leading to a "warped" conclusion. Jonathan Fielden, an anaesthetist from Southampton, said the BMA's policy reflected the opinion of most doctors.

"To hold a debate suggests we are promoting physician-assisted suicide.

"Whatever the conclusion of that debate is, patients' trust will be shaken."

THE INDEPENDENT
Wednesday 8 July 1998

Call to end school funding 'lottery'

By Ben Russell
Education Correspondent

THE SYSTEM of funding schools was condemned by headteachers yesterday as a "complete and utter lottery".

The National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) said that there were huge discrepancies between the budgets of identical schools in different areas, running into hundreds of thousands of pounds a year.

Figures produced by the association pointed to sharp variations between the highest and lowest school budgets in each region. The NAHT general secretary, David Hart, blamed this on differences in local authority budget decisions and the way central government calculated council spending limits for the problem.

Mr Hart described the system as grossly unfair: "It produces vast disparities in funding which bear absolutely no relation to the cost of delivering the curriculum in schools across the country."

The association found large discrepancies across the country. In inner London, the most generous authority, Kensington and Chelsea, spends £3,241 per pupil on secondary schools compared with £2,521 for the lowest spender, Wandsworth. That meant that a 1,000-pupil school in Wandsworth was £720,000 worse off than a similar school in Kensington, the NAHT said.

In Yorkshire, Doncaster spends £2,189 per pupil on secondary schools while Bradford spends £1,752.

In a letter to David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, Mr Hart called on the Government to use its comprehensive spending review to create a level playing field for schools.


David Hart: urges reform

Headteachers want a national funding formula to replace the current system under which local authorities decide school budgets, but are constrained by spending limits imposed by Whitehall.

It emerged last week that ministers were considering cutting £200m from schools in London to spend on extra resources for those in the north of England.

Mr Hart said: "The curriculum needs for a child in one school are the same as the needs of another child in a different school. If there are additional needs arising from the socioeconomic problems in an area that should be covered by local discretion.

"We know that David Blunkett has been making a powerful case for substantial additional resources for the next three years via the comprehensive spending review. These are urgently needed if schools are going to meet the standards challenge laid down by the Government between now and the next election. But a reform of the system by which funds reach school budgets is also urgent."

Staff give tips on success

By Ben Russell

THE FIRST beacon schools were named yesterday as the Government launched a £1.8m project to spread the secrets of classroom success.

Seventy-five schools will receive £50,000 each to pay for staff to help raise standards in neighbouring schools.

Teachers from the beacon schools will visit their neighbours and staff from schools in the area will be invited in to see how successful schools get results.

The first beacon schools have been chosen from schools singled out for praise in reports by Ofsted, the schools' inspectorate.

The initiative, which was announced last month, was denounced by teachers' leaders, who warned of the potential for social selection in a new élite breed of school. Ministers said they wanted to use schools' expertise to help raise standards.

Stephen Byers, the School Standards minister, said: "These schools represent a cross-section of the best in education practice which we want spread out to other schools."

All the schools have expertise in areas such as numeracy, literacy, or music.

"Whatever their particular strength, they will be encouraged to focus on that, share it and help raise standards."

Schools would be free to decide how to share their expertise, Mr Byers said.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, welcomed the move, but said rapid expansion of the pilot was necessary to avoid creating resentment and élitism within the system. "I do not think the Government should underestimate the fact that the competitive market has thrown up considerable rivalry. Anything which gives a small group of schools an advantage will, I think, generate controversy," he said.

The schools listed in the £1.8m Beacon Initiative

Acle High School, Norwich, Norfolk; Anchorsholme Primary School, Cleveleys, Lancashire; Ashton-on-Mersey School, Sale, Cheshire; Aylesbury High School, Buckinghamshire; Barnford Primary School, Sheffield; Barnfields Primary School, Wildwood, Stafford; Blackfriars School, Newcastle under Lyme, Staffordshire; Broughton Infants School, Brigg, Humberside; Cadbury Heath Primary School, Bristol; Cams Hill School, Fareham, Hampshire; Canwarden House School, Camberley, Surrey; Clifton Hill School, Caterham, Surrey; Crispin School, Street, Somerset; Crompton House School, Oldham; Cunningham Hill Infant School, St Albans, Hertfordshire; Davenant Foundation School, Loughton, Essex; Debenham High School, Stowmarket, Suffolk; Eglingham CE First School, Alnwick, Northumberland; Ellison Boulters CE School, Lincoln; Etchingham CE Primary School, Etchingham, East Sussex; Exhall Grange School, Coventry; Fair Oak Junior School, Eastleigh, Hampshire; Folly Hill County Infant School, Farnham, Surrey; George Spencer School and Technology College, Stapleford, Nottinghamshire; Glyne Gap School, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex; Grange Lane Infant School, Scunthorpe; Great Rissington Primary School, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire; Grove Special School, Berwick-upon-Tweed; Haggerston School, London E2; Hartwell CE Primary School, Huddersfield; Huncliff School, Saltburn by the Sea, Cleveland; Hursthead Junior School, Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire; Knowle CE Primary School, Solihull; Linden Bridge School, Worcester Park, Surrey; Loose Infant School, Maidstone, Kent; Margaret McMillan Nursery School, London N19; Merrivale Nursery School, Nottingham; Moss Hey Primary School, Stockport; New Invention Primary School, Willenhall, West Midlands; Norman Gate, Andover, Hampshire; North Nibley CE Primary School, North Nibley, Gloucestershire; Northwood Primary School, Cowes, Isle of Wight; Oakridge Primary School, Stafford; Parklands High School, Chorley, Lancashire; Parklands Junior School, Romford, east London; Pennywell Community Nursery School, Sunderland; Portfields School, Milton Keynes; Pownall Green Primary School, Stockport, Cheshire; Preston Candover CE Primary School, Basingstoke; Priory School, Slough, Berkshire; Priory School, Lewes, East Sussex; Redhill Primary School, Derby; Reynalds Cross School, Solihull, West Midlands; Riverhead Infants School, Riverhead, Kent; Riverside School, Waterlooville, Hampshire; Rodborough School, Milford, Surrey; RNIB New College, Worcester; St Aidan's CE High School, Harrogate; St Alban's Catholic High School, Ipswich; St Aloysius Catholic Infants School, London NW1; St Thomas of Canterbury, Bolton; Shambrook Upper School and Community College, Shambrook, Bedfordshire; Sir Thomas Rich's School, Gloucester; Swinford Manor, Ashford, Kent; The Crossley Heath School, Halifax; The Grange Therapeutic School, Oakham, Rutland; The Park Community School, Barnstaple, North Devon; The Sele County First School, Hexham, Northumberland; Torquay Boys' Grammar School, Torquay; Waddesdon CE School, Aylesbury; Weston Hills Primary School, Spalding, Lincolnshire; William Cobbett Junior School, Farnham; William Ford CE Junior School, Dagenham, Essex; Wymondham High School, Wymondham, Norfolk.


Members of Grange Park Opera (above) rehearsing Mozart's 'Figaro's Wedding', directed by Emma Jenkins. *Philip Meech*


Below, the terraces link the auditorium in the neo-classical orangery to the house

Music fills Grecian temple

A NEWLY formed opera company put on a gala performance last night in a brand new auditorium at Grange Park in Hampshire.

Set in a Capability Brown landscape, the neo-classical building, designed by William Wilkins in the early 19th century, was owned by the Baring family from the 1820s until1936, and bought back by them in a state of disrepair in 1964.

With the present owner, Lord Ashburton, as its patron and the help of English Heritage, the Grange Park Opera Company was formed and the 363-seat auditorium built in the orangery (and furnished with seats from the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden).

Last night's gala, based on the house's history, launched the first annual festival and is followed tonight by Mozart's *Figaro's Wedding*, which runs until Tuesday 14 July.

No kids please, we're modern women

THE GROWING numbers of women who remain childless are not stereotypical career-minded woman buried in work, or "ultra-feminists" who scorn family life, say researchers from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

While no one factor is responsible for a rise in childless women, the most common reasons include fears over economic security and the low status that society gives families.

BY GLENDA COOPER
Social Affairs Correspondent

One in five women now of childbearing age will not have children. The figure is double that for women born in 1945.

In a series of in-depth interviews with voluntarily childless women and some of their partners, women revealed a high degree of caution about assuming the responsibilities of being a parent. Parenthood was clearly identified with unwanted disruption and change in their lives as well as a heightened risk of financial insecurity.

Around one-third of those interviewed said that they had made a firm decision not to have children, and never wavered. Others said that they had experienced some wavering but felt they had "come out the other side" with a clear decision not to start a family. About 10 per cent – women in their 40s – said that they had once thought they would have children but had since changed their view. A sizeable minority – one in six – still had mixed feelings.

Parental responsibility was variously described as "huge" and "imperative" and its permanence stressed. It was seen as a total commitment. "There isn't room for giving anything less than 100 per cent to parenthood," said one woman. For women on their own, single parenthood was something they did not want to contemplate.

The dominant image was of parenthood as sacrifice, having to "give up" social lives, financial independence and in the case of women, jobs. There was not a simple choice between work or family, with many saying that early retirement was what they aimed for.

Money was cited as a consideration in remaining childless by more than half of those interviewed. "They see parenthood as taking a big risk," said Fiona McAllister, one of the authors of the report. "They often feel they had struggled quite hard to get a better way of life, they had got to a position where they felt secure as just a couple living together."

The low status of families in modern society was another important factor said Ceridwen Roberts, director of the Family Policy Studies Centre, which published the report. "The image of parenting in society is not a positive one. You are seen as a nuisance as the parent of a child in a public place or as a problem in work."

She went on: "We also castigate parents about what is a good parent ... and at a subliminal level many people just do not feel up to the job ... We are not a child-friendly society. People have to be assured that family life is worthwhile."

Root Cartwright, 48, head of the British Organisation of Non-Parents, said he had chosen not to have children when he was 21: "I was appalled at the resentment shown to children by parents who expected them to be angels.

"There is a tendency still to try and explain childlessness away. It is a choice and one that people should have."

'I have never been broody'

LIZ DAVIES decided to get sterilised when she was 30. "I just knew that I didn't want children," she says. "I knew from an early age; I've never been broody. I knew if I got involved with another relationship, if I met someone who wanted children, it might become a problem. But by getting sterilised then my future partners would knew where I stood."

It wasn't an issue for her husband. Both of them are on their second marriages and he decided to have a vasectomy – he has two adult children from his first marriage. "So it was never a problem. I've never allowed it to be."

Her friends and family did not criticise her. "Long-term friends knew what I felt and my parents have never been the grandparenty type," says Liz, manager of the Marie Stopes Fairfield clinic in Essex. "I suppose I did have conversations and arguments with acquaintances who would say things like: 'It's a woman's duty to have children; it's what women are here for.' Well, I just used to dismiss comments like that.

"I can't think of a disadvantage in not having children," she adds. "There's just total freedom. If my husband and I want to go out we don't have to worry about babysitters or we can just take off for the weekend. I can have a lie-in at the weekend if I want. There are no demands on my life.

"We've just come back from Cornwall. We try to book out of school holidays so there aren't hordes of kids around and if we're going abroad we tend to look for a non-child-friendly resort. I see so many women going abroad with children, say on self-catering holidays, and just ending up doing the same job that they do at home but in a different place. That's not my idea of fun."

Financial independence is also important, she says. "What we have is ours. I have a lot of women friends with children and any spare money has to go on the kids. They never get the chance to pamper themselves."

At bottom, she does not want the responsibility of having children. "That responsibility never goes away if they are 10, 20 or 50. You're responsible for another human being's life. I don't want that sort of beadache and worry. I also think that there's a tremendous guilt with motherhood – guilt if you go out to work and leave them, guilt if you stay at home and aren't earning more money for them. People say it is selfish not to have children but there are just as many selfish reasons for having children. I do plenty of things in my life that are unselfish ... Basically, I think that everyone has the right of choice and this is my choice."

Liz Davies: 'Everyone has the right of choice and this is my choice' *Neville Elder*

'I want control over my own life'

"I'VE NEVER felt maternal. I can safely say that I've never felt like having children," says Jane Grove, 37, a deputy editor on the *Ealing Gazette*.

She says the biggest advantage is freedom: "I can do what I want when I want at the drop of a hat. I can ring up a friend and ask them to go out whenever. I can live my life with spontaneity, which I don't see in my friends with children.

"I play golf a lot, I play squash a lot and I socialise. I like going out to the cinema and the theatre. And we like to go out to restaurants – all those things that require careful planning if you have children." Financially it is also an advantage. "It's much more secure economically."

Jane knew from an early age she didn't want children. "It was a bit of an issue at first with my husband. He knew how I felt about it when we got married and I think he was hoping that I'd change my mind. However, now he feels the same way.

"I've never had any hassle from my family, nor really from my friends," she says. "There was some peer pressure without a doubt, although that was when I was younger, at university and after university. Other people were having children and they would say to me: 'Of course, you're going to want children', as if to reassure themselves and their feelings about having children. You know, if their mates have children as well then they know they are doing the right thing."

She feels that with larger numbers of women deciding not to have children that it will become more acceptable for women to make this choice. "I don't get so much hassle any more, because people know what I feel and because of my age, so it has grown less as time goes on. Funnily enough, it's usually men who ask me rather than women. Women seem to understand why a woman doesn't want children but men can't.

"I feel that not having children I have a greater control over my life – as much control as you will ever have," adds Jane, who will have been married for 10 years in December. "You don't have children to worry about – just yourself and your husband.

"I believe that people who have children often have them for selfish reasons, just because they want them. I think that they have children for just as selfish reasons as I choose not to have them. The pressure to have children grows less as time goes by. And if more people choose not to have children then it will become more acceptable for women to choose to do this, I think."

Case studies by Glenda Cooper

Jane Grove: 'I can do what I want when I want' *Andrew Buurman*

Police braced for mayhem as bikers fall out

POLICE are struggling to contain escalating warfare between rival motorcycle gangs which has led to fatal stabbings, shootings and attempted bombings of gang headquarters.

A feud has broken out between the Hell's Angels, the most infamous of the "backpatch" biker gangs and the Outcasts, a younger gang which has expanded rapidly in the past two years to challenge for supremacy.

Detectives fear the violence could reach the levels seen in Scandinavia, where a two-year feud between bikers has led to seven murders and 39 attempted killings.

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

Last week the National Criminal Intelligence Service sent a warning to 37 police forces in England and Wales advising them of the "possibility of armed conflict and the use of automatic weapons and explosives" by biker gangs.

An NCIS source said: "We are concerned that some police forces still have this romantic notion that these are just old rockers with an obsessive interest in bikes."

The feud began in June last year when the Outcasts attempted to absorb a small Hertfordshire-based motorcycle club called The Lost Tribe. The Hell's Angels decided that the Outcasts' power base, which has spread across the south-east and East Anglia, had grown too large.

Members of The Lost Tribe were ordered to become "prospect", or probationary, members of the Hell's Angels. The stakes in what had been a simmering rivalry were immediately raised.

The Outcasts had grown to a strength of 200, and through their loose alliance with the Midlands-based Outlaws, who are 150-strong and share a dislike for the Hell's Angels, were in a position to challenge the 30-year domination of the Angels, who have 230 members and prospects, in 14 chapters across Britain.

In November, three members of the Outcasts were arrested in possession of three loaded shotguns as they drove through Earl's Court, west London.

Then on 31 January at the Rockers' Reunion – a usually peaceful gathering of bike enthusiasts which has run without problems for 15 years – two Outcasts were brutally murdered.

Malcolm St Clair and David Armstrong both received fatal stab wounds outside Battersea Arts Centre, south London. Police retrieved knives, hammers, axes and a cosh from near the murder scene.

In the following weeks, property owned by the Hell's Angels was targeted.

According to police intelligence, a crude bomb, made from fertiliser, petrol and a detonator, was found at the clubhouse of the Hell's Angels Lea Valley chapter, in Luton, Bedfordshire, in March.

Then a motorcycle shop in Kent, which is owned by members of the Hell's Angels, was the scene of an attempted arson attack involving petrol and a pipe inserted through the store's letterbox.

A month later, an Outcasts member was stopped by police driving his Jaguar car in Dorset.

He was carrying a .45 Smith & Wesson revolver in his waistband.

A search of his home uncovered parts of an Uzi 9mm automatic pistol, an AK assault rifle and two submachine-guns.

The following week, two Outcasts were gunned down in the street after leaving a pub close to the clubhouse of the Outcast Family chapter in Mile End, east London.

It is understood that at least six shots were fired from an automatic weapon and the gunman escaped on a motorcycle.

Both victims survived but neither would co-operate with police, in accordance with the strict code of silence enforced by all the backpatch gangs.

In the coming weeks the summer season of public motorcycle shows is due to take place and police believe they could be used to carry out further attacks.

Last weekend the Magna Carta motorcycle rally, between Braintree and Southend in Essex, was cancelled amid fears of violence.

Essex police issued a statement saying: "Police have information which suggests the event was likely to have become the scene of clashes between visitors from rival motorcycle factions, some of them carrying firearms."

The show season culminates next month with the Bulldog Bash, organised by the Hell's Angels at an airfield near Stratford-upon-Avon.

The event, which includes appearances by bands such as the Stranglers, attracts around 40,000 visitors and generates around £1m for the Hell's Angels, who have registered themselves as a limited company and have a standard response to criticisms of their activities.

The club, they say, cannot be held responsible for the actions of individual members.

HELL ON WHEELS: THE GRIMY GENEALOGY OF MOTORCYCLE GANGS

HELL'S ANGELS

Founded in 1948 in California. Its colours show a winged death's head wearing a pilot's helmet. International gang, its first British chapter was ordained in London in 1969. Manchester became the 14th British chapter in April. Has 230 members and prospects in Britain. Motto: "Three can keep a secret if two are dead."

OUTCASTS

Has its origins in the early 1980s. British gang with links to the Australian Outcasts. Has nine chapters, mostly in the London area, including the Family, the Bysen and the Freeriders. Other chapters are in Harlow, Essex, and Great Yarmouth, Norfolk. They claim a membership of 200 and boast of links to loyalist paramilitary groups.

OUTLAWS

Based in the Midlands but has links to Outlaw gangs in France, Australia, Norway and Canada. Founded in 1989 after a feud between two Midlands gangs. The seven feathers represent the original seven gangs, spread between Birmingham and Long Eaton. Now 150-strong, with affiliates in Wales (The Henchmen) and the north (Rare Breed).

THE INDEPENDENT
Wednesday 8 July 1998

Russian unrest: The coal industry, a pillar of the Soviet Union, is facing an agonising death under capitalism

Strikes keep Yeltsin on the wrong track

BY PHIL REEVES
in Moscow

A MINERS' blockade of the Trans-Siberian railway spread to the Russian Arctic North yesterday, compounding Boris Yeltsin's problems on a day which saw another drop in the stock market, a struggling rouble, and signs of further industrial unrest.

The miners, who have stopped freight trains running on the artery for five days, were joined by colleagues in the Komi region, who began blocking a line in a fresh flurry of what has become known as the "rail war". The move came amid signs that the dispute is, if anything, hardening.

Although miners appeared to agree to meet a government commission, a senior government official said there would be no talks until the miners left the tracks.

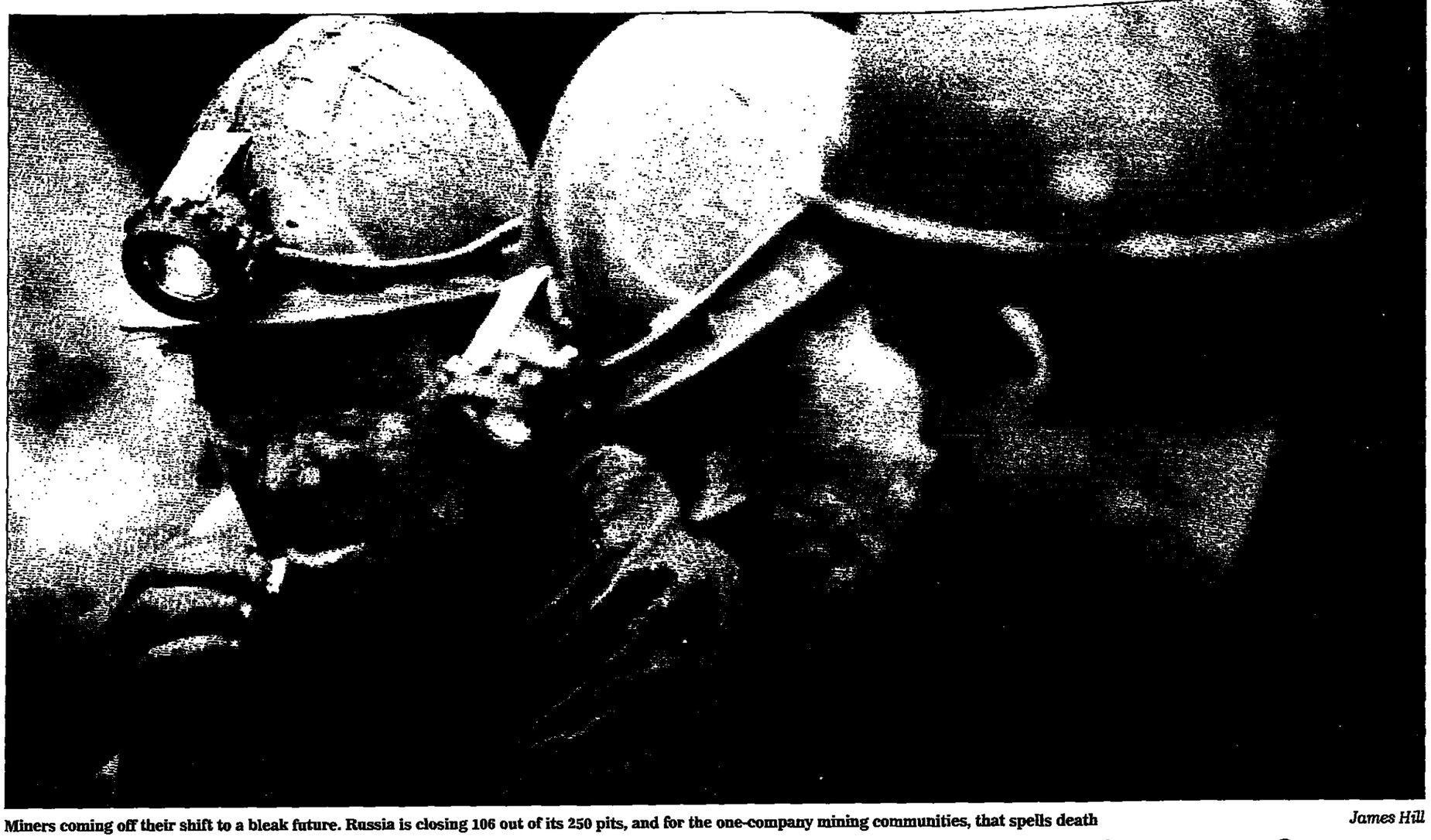
Several hundred of them, demanding months of back pay and the ousting of President Yeltsin, have been blocking trains in two Siberian towns, Yurga and Anzhero-Sudzhensk along the northern part of the Trans-Siberian line, although passenger trains have been allowed to pass.

So far, regional and national officials, anxious not to provoke confrontation, have been cautious about intervening. But confrontation could be looming. The authorities are increasingly threatening to prosecute, claiming that the dispute is producing heavy losses.

Elsewhere, Russia's crisis widened still further yesterday. Itar-Tass reported that staff at the nuclear centre Arzamas-16 are planning for their first ever indefinite strike.

Stocks were down by more than seven per cent by lunchtime and the rouble came under more heavy pressure on news that British Petroleum had pulled out of the forthcoming auction of Rosneft, the state oil asset from which the government was hoping to raise at least $1.6bn. A strike by utility workers caused power cuts in Vladivostok.

And Moody's Investment Services said that Russia may need up to $20bn from the IMF to avoid a default on its short-term debt – at least $5bn more than the Russian government is at present asking for.



Miners coming off their shift to a bleak future. Russia is closing 106 out of its 250 pits, and for the one-company mining communities, that spells death *James Hill*

Miners rage against extinction

BY PHIL REEVES
in Kizel

THEY DO not often laugh in Kizel, a rugged coal town tucked in the foothills of the Ural Mountains. But this, this was really funny. When, we asked, did they last go on holiday to Sochi on the Black Sea – once the seaside playground of the heroes of the Soviet labour force, the summer resort for people like them?

Broad, gold-studded smiles cracked the faces of the dozens of miners who had surrounded us, hoping – in the absence of any credible information from their own government – to find out about their fate from a couple of visiting Western journalists.

"Sochi? We haven't been there since the democrats came along 10 years ago", shouted one. He almost jeered as he said "democrats". And the mine workers – chisel-faced bright-eyed men, angry matronly women – laughed knowingly, all over again.

Holidays belong to a category of Kizel humour as black as the coal-stained walls of the wooden cottages along the low hills all around. Here, concerns are far more urgent than lounging on beaches. They are about lost jobs, food and clothing, survival. And, above all, what to do next.

We were in a stark, peeling building at the top of the Severnaya mine, where these people worked, many of them for a lifetime. Built under Stalin in 1940 to fuel the war machine, it closed this year, laying off almost all the 2,000 employees. We had expected to talk to one or two of them; in fact, more than 70 turned out, waiting for hours for the chance to articulate their misery and anger. Had anyone found a job, we asked? One hand went up.

Kizel is caught in the jaws of an overhaul of the Russian mining industry that – given the paucity of assistance for its victims – dwarfs the closures of British pits in the mid-Eighties. Russia is closing almost half its pits, 106 out of 250. In the last four years, nearly 400,000 jobs have gone. Moscow has decided it can no longer afford to go on pouring money into mines that have long become decrepit and lethal. In 1993, every third ton of coal was paid for by state subsidies. Shut-downs have been underway from Siberia to the Arctic.

For Kizel, an untidy sprawl between hills on a filthy river 780 miles east of Moscow, this amounts to a death warrant. Twelve of the 14 pits in the area have ceased work. This tight-knit, one-company community is doomed to fade from the map. Most state-supported social services, from kindergartens to clinics, were run by the mines themselves; when the mine goes, the rest follows.

The Kizel miners have tried to fight back, following the example set by Siberian miners now blocking the Trans-Siberian railway, demanding back wages and the impeachment of President Boris Yeltsin. They have closed roads, sat on tracks, and placed federal officials under house arrest.

The government has flourished promises, mindful perhaps that it was the coal miners who helped dispatch Mikhail Gorbachev from office in 1991. But in Kizel these promises have meant almost nothing. There is a re-training centre, but it is ensnared in a poverty trap of its own. It is funded by a payroll tax from local companies. The mine closures have forced other firms out of business. So, as the unemployment figures shoot up, and the need for the centre grows, its income nosedives.

"It is simply terrible," said Margarita Sashin, one of the centre's officials. "We feel helpless. We have had nothing from the federal government." Sometimes, miners and their families arrive there and collapse in tears, she says.

Only 120 of Kizel's 12,000 redundant miners have found new jobs in the first six months of this year. True, plans are underway for a union-supported pilot scheme in which several thousand miners will get housing certificates enabling them to move elsewhere to work. This would allow them to buy flats at an 80 per cent discount. But a one-room apartment in Perm – the nearest big city, four hours away by road – costs 80,000 roubles (£8,125), said Ms Sashin. "Twenty per cent of that is ridiculous. No one has that sort of cash here." The average pay for miners is £144 a month.

Chief adviser in the restructuring of Russia's mines is the World Bank. The bank is still recovering ground after a significant chunk of a $500m (£313m) loan, paid in 1996 in return for promised cuts in the $1.5bn coal subsidy, went adrift. "The money was misused," said Vadim Voronin, deputy head of its Moscow office. "It passed through intermediaries, and was used by commercial banks for a period."

The Kizel miners are less cautious. "It was stolen", said Vladimir Kopitov, who spent a quarter of a century down the mines. He spoke bitterly.

The entity at the root of this corruption was Rosugol, the state coal monopoly which Mr Yeltsin finally closed down last December. All federal subsidies to the mines went through it.

Although government-controlled, it was a joint stock company, managed as a private structure. It could set up its own commercial spin-offs – for instance, insurance companies – into which government cash meant for the mines was funnelled, and invested long enough to accrue interest payments. Thus, there was a clear incentive to obstruct reform. The less efficient the coal sector was, the more it needed subsidies and the more Rosugol could utilise.

"The system was unacceptable," said Mr Voronin. He estimated that until last year, 40 per cent of the bank's loan was "misused". Yet no one has been prosecuted; most of the Rosugol managers have moved on to new jobs. The World Bank has embarked on a second loan of $800m. This time, says Mr Voronin, there are tight controls.

Lurking in the twilight is an army of middlemen – companies frequently involving mine directors or their relations, which buy coal direct from the pits and sell it on at a profit. The tax police believe middlemen keep as much as one-third of the proceeds from Russia's coal sales, and promise a crack-down.

The future of Russia's unemployed miners could scarcely be more bleak. Their trade unions are weak and often deferential to the government. The public, remembering the miners as the former Soviet Union's molly-coddled élite, is not always supportive. Elsewhere in Russia there have been reports of miners committing suicide.

The Kizel community seems to have little in its arsenal, beyond more protests and threats of unrest. The emphasis is shifting towards the latter. "The Russian people are very patient," said Yuri Gainulin, 41, a miner for 18 years. "After all, we are the children of people who were sent here by Stalin. But when we act, we do it quickly." The others seemed to agree.

Hundreds die as China's rivers swell in early rains

BY TERESA POOLE
in Peking

THE RAINS have come early this year, and so have the floods. With grim inevitability, millions of Chinese are already shoring up the dikes along swollen rivers across the country.

Hundreds have died, the first victims of an annual death toll which no one seems able to halt. And, if the deluge continues, this could be a bad year; in recent days, the mighty Yangtze has been flowing at a rate not seen since 1954, the year of China's last catastrophic flood.

It is China's great misfortune to suffer from terrible floods and droughts at the same time. The water is already at record levels at some places along about 600 miles of the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze, and flash floods have begun along the Huaihe, the country's third longest river.

Yet the Yellow River, to the north, has run completely dry along its lower reaches in Shandong; seen from an aircraft last week, the parched river bed cut through cropland which in a few weeks will be desperate for irrigation.

Water management is one of the biggest challenges facing China, and the annual cycle of floods and drought is a reminder that the problem is getting steadily worse.

Flood damage is usually caused by the collapse of dikes, and in an average year can kill 5,000 people. Water shortages tend to be caused by a combination of wastage and long-term overuse.

Normally, the flooding does not hit with a vengeance until the end of July. But at this early stage of the deadly season, around 500 people have already been drowned in the past few weeks.

Yesterday, the official *China Daily* newspaper announced that in Jiujiang, in eastern Jiangxi province near Shanghai, some three million people had already been mobilised on anti-flood duty after water levels reached record heights.

"Many dikes have been breached and farmland flooded, a large number of houses have collapsed, and there has been a huge loss of lives and property," it said.

Reports of serious floods are coming in from across the country, with Jiangxu, Fujian, Guangdong, Hunan and Anhui provinces the hardest hit, and braced for worse. Even Peking has been suffering over the past few days, with the heaviest rainfall for 42 years.

The Xinhua news agency said that one driver had drowned when he drove into a suburban underpass overflowing with rain water.

This year the early melting of snow in the highlands of north-west Qinghai province and Tibet has exacerbated the rain.

By the end of June, the Yangtze's water flow had reached 77,600 cubic meters per second, the greatest since 1954, the year that saw the last of the three greatest flood calamities of the river in 1931, 1935 and 1954, which killed a total of at least 317,000 Chinese.

It was to stop such disasters happening again that China in the Fifties constructed thousands of miles of dikes and embankments. Since then, the defences have continually been extended and repaired in a never-ending battle against the elements. It is a very precarious set-up because, after decades of silt deposition, the river-beds often sit many feet above the nearby countryside, with the water held back by the artificial walls. Once a dike is breached, a wall of water floods down on to the lower surrounding farmland or through the cities.

Lack of information about weather patterns, water levels, and burst dikes has been hampering flood control. China only recently started using a computerised network for flood information along the Yangtze, connecting central control offices with local areas along the river.

The annual financial costs of the country's floods is huge. This year, they even hit the new Peking to Hong Kong railway track, opened just one year ago, which was suspended for three days at the end of June. Water caused the bed of the railway to sink and bent the tracks, near the city of Nanchang in central China.

A farmer paddles among collapsed farmhouses in Shijiao in the southern Chinese province of Jiangxi *Reuters*

Indonesian break-up threat grows

BY STEPHEN VINES
in Hong Kong

THE DANGERS of Indonesia breaking up, and not just over East Timor, appeared to grow yesterday following reports of violent protests demanding independence in Irian Jaya, the western half of the island of New Guinea.

Reports from the island yesterday claimed one demonstrator was killed by the army, dozens of protesters were injured and some 180 arrested.

The protesters, carrying arrows, spears and daggers, faced troops who used rubber bullets to disperse the crowds. In the highland town of Wamena the protesters hoisted the banned flag of the Free Papua Movement, which has been engaged in a pro-independence insurgency war since the 1960s.

Although the response of the Indonesian army to the protests has been more restrained than in the past, General Wiranto, the defence minister, described the raising of the Free Papua flag as "treachery" and said it would not be tolerated.

Since demonstrations in the capital, Jakarta, in May, which lead to the resignation of President Suharto, separatist movements in East Timor and to a lesser extent in Aceh and Irian Jaya have redoubled their efforts to win freedom from Indonesian control.

The scale of the protests in dirt-poor Irian Jaya are hard to gauge. The province is closed to journalists and there are few independent observers.

The end of Suharto's three-decade-long rule has revived protests movements throughout Indonesia.

Suharto's successor as president, BJ Habibie, has responded to calls for reform but has set limits on moves he fears will lead to the break-up of the country. Only East Timor has been promised some form of limited autonomy.

Irian Jaya has about 1.5 million inhabitants. They used to be part of the Dutch East Indies and were incorporated into Indonesia in 1963.

General Bambang Yudhoyono, the head of Indonesia's social and political department, warned yesterday that Indonesia must not turn into another Yugoslavia. "The crucial thing is unity", he said.

Slovak worries Iran with quake vision

BY ADAM LE BOR

THOUSANDS OF Tehran citizens were reported to be fleeing the city yesterday after Lubomir Minarovjech, a 74-year-old Slovakian with no university education, and no connection to any scientific institution, wrote to the Slovak embassy in the Iranian capital predicting that an earthquake would rock the city this month, probably at the weekend.

The embassy forwarded the letter to the Iranian authorities, but news got out and repeated statements by seismologists that the prediction is baseless have failed to stem the panic. "Scientifically, the time and place of an earthquake cannot be predicted," said Dr Bahram Akasheh, a seismologist. "This letter is a lie and a hoax."

Like many of its central European neighbours, Slovakia has a tradition of divination and prediction, although these are more usually concerned with helping farmers plan for rain or drought, or advising the lovelorn, than forecasting calamities in faraway countries.

THE INDEPENDENT
Wednesday 8 July 1998

Volkswagen finally agrees to pay wartime slave labourers

BY PETER BILD
in Bonn

AFTER DECADES of prevarication, Volkswagen agreed yesterday to pay compensation to Jewish concentration camp victims who were used as slave labour in the German car company's wartime factories.

The move could prove a landmark decision in the fight to win individual compensation for Holocaust victims for the atrocities they suffered in wartime Germany.

Volkswagen made its decision following strong pressure from Gerhard Schröder, the Social Democrat seeking to unseat Chancellor Helmut Kohl in September's federal elections. Mr Schröder is premier of Lower Saxony which retains a 20 per cent stake in Volkswagen, Europe's largest car maker, which will soon also own Rolls-Royce.

The company said the VW board had decided to establish what it called a "private fund" to give humanitarian aid to individual victims forced to support the Nazi war machine by building tanks and weapons at VW.

Nearly every big German company, including many of the top names in industry today, used forced labour from the concentration camps.

The VW action for the first time acknowledges the company's direct responsibility to persecuted individuals it exploited during the Second World War. It marks a sharp reversal of the company's stance. Earlier, VW and other German companies argued they were not the legal successors of companies operating under the Nazi regime, or insisted compensation must come from the Federal Republic, as the legal successor to Nazi Germany.

The brief VW statement says it is recognising the company's "historic and moral obligations" to the victims of its wartime activities. Many of those forced to labour for the company in the dying days of the war were Hungarian Jews, many aged only 15 or 16.

They were "selected" to work for VW and the Third Reich from Auschwitz and other concentration camps. One survivor reported that VW officials made the selection.

At Wolvesburg, VW's headquarters, and at other plants Jewish slave labourers were held in concentration camp conditions. VW transports from the camps included Russian and other Eastern Europeans. Thousand died from their brutal treatment, from malnutrition and later from typhoid as they awaited liberation by advancing British troops.

Yesterday's announcement by VW is the result of a15-year battle for justice conducted by one man. Klaus von Muemchausen was one year old at the end of the war when he was rescued from Auschwitz by the Allied advance. His Jewish mother died in the gas chambers. He says his battle has been therapeutic for him. Mr Muemchausen's fight for justice for slave labourers started in 1983 when he sought compensation for former slave workers at a factory in the German Sauerland. He is fighting two legal cases seeking compensation from the Federal government for other slave workers in the courts in Cologne and in the city state of Bremen where he is a research fellow at the State University.

Mr Muemchausen says his activities and the lawyers employed to fight the cases through the courts are financed by a wealthy German who insists on remaining anonymous.

The VW move surprised Ignatz Bubis, president of the Council of German Jews, who said he remained sceptical. "If they make this gesture it is because if VW lost its case in court it could face claims from possibly tens of thousands of former slave workers living in Eastern Europe," he said.

The decisive move to force VW to pay individual slave labourers their wages came during a secret meeting with aides to the Lower Saxony premier in Hanover on 26 June.

Mr Muemchausen gave VW and Mr Schröder, who had promised to help, an ultimatum. If VW refused to start paying out money to victims immediately – many of them are between 75- and 85-years-old – he would pursue VW through the courts.

His hand was strengthened when American lawyers, who are fighting class actions for Holocaust victims against Swiss and German banks, offered to take up the cudgels for slave labourers against VW.

VW has refused to comment on its brief press release. It says details of the fund will be disclosed only in mid-September. But Mr Muemchausen is confident the company will start paying out cash to individual victims by the end of this month.

French Jews call for extradition of 'dead' SS leader

BY ROBERT FISK
in Beirut

IN AN ATTEMPT to resurrect the "peace process" in the Middle East, the French government is welcoming President Hafez al-Assad of Syria to Paris next week for a state visit, his first to France in 22 years.

President Jacques Chirac will give an official dinner in his honour on 16 July and the Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin, will host a lunch for the Syrian leader the following day. Syria, according to the French foreign minister, Hubert Vedrine, is a "strategic partner".

But Israel does not smile upon France's initiatives in the Middle East and French Jewish groups are claiming to be "outraged" by President Assad's visit, as it coincides with the 58th anniversary of the mass arrest of French Jews by the Nazis and their French collaborators.

Mr Assad, it should be said, had nothing to do with the Second World War – he was only nine years old and starting his first term at school in the northern Syrian city of Lattakia when the Germans invaded France.

The Representative Council of Jewish Institutions in France, however, intend to make a connection between Syria and the Holocaust by demanding the extradition from Damascus of a man who is almost certainly dead: the former SS Obersturmbannfuhrer Alois Brunner, once a senior officer in the Sonderkommando der Sicherheitspolizei fur Judenangelegenheiten, second-in-command to Adolf Eichmann and the man who signed the order for the deportation of Salonika's 46,091 Jews to be sent to the gas chambers of Auschwitz.

In 1944, Brunner was transferred to the French transit camp at Drancy outside Paris, whence he deported a further 24,000 Jews to the extermination camps of eastern Europe.

Brunner is – or rather, was – a cruel and evil man. Born in the Austrian village of Rohrbrunn in 1912, he assisted Eichmann in the arrest of Jews in Vienna in 1938 and while in Salonika was in the habit of whipping those who were reluctant to board the death trains to Poland.

But after commanding Drancy, he disappeared, only to turn up in Cairo to teach Colonel Nasser's security police the techniques of interrogation, Gestapo-style. When Nasser united Egypt and Syria into the doomed "United Arab Republic", Brunner travelled to Damascus.

And when the alliance fell apart, Brunner was still in Syria, helping the security police in 1960 to acquire 2,000 items of bugging equipment from East Germany.

When President Assad staged his bloodless coup in 1971 (in Syria, they call it the "corrective revolution"), Brunner was already in retirement, little more than an embarrassment for the new regime which wanted nothing to do with this sordid reminder of Syria's early dictators.

It was decided that Brunner should become a non-person, allowed to stay in Damascus – provided he kept his mouth shut. He was permitted to live, under the pseudonym George Fischer, in a tiny apartment in

Alois Brunner taught Syrian agents Gestapo torture techniques

George Haddad Street, not far from the British embassy. When I rang his doorbell in 1983, he was keeping pet rabbits on his roof.

He didn't answer the door, but a Swedish neighbour of Brunner agreed to pass a message to him. Would he talk to me? Back came the reply: "I cannot do so. I have signed an agreement with the Syrian government never to give interviews."

Brunner was good at signing documents. But when I asked the Syrian government back in 1983 what they knew of Brunner, I received a call from an official at the Ministry of Information. "I have made enquiries and we have no such man in Syria," I was told. "I think you want to keep good relations with Syria." And so the response has been ever since.

Some months later, Brunner was photographed, a thin, stooped man apparently suffering from cancer, carrying a plastic bag of groceries in the Damascus souk. Shortly afterwards, word reached Western diplomats in Syria that – much to the relief of the government – the old man had died.

Officially, of course, no one could say this, because officially Brunner was not in Syria. President Chirac's spokeswoman, Catherine Colonna, says she does not know if – after discussing the pressing issues of Syrian-Israeli peace talks and the possibility of an Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon – Mr Chirac will again raise the issue of the man whom the French government itself now believes to be dead.

All in all, a very odd situation: Brunner – who would be 86 if alive – was condemned *in absentia* by a French court; and with the continuing lack of any proof of death, France still demands his extradition. Mr Chirac brought the matter up with Mr Assad when he visited Damascus two years ago, at which time Brunner was almost certainly three years dead.

And the Syrians, of course, still say they know nothing about him. French Jewish groups will certainly try to blight the Syrian leader's state visit with the ghost of Alois Brunner.

Alive or dead, why was he allowed to stay on in Damascus? Most Middle Eastern states protect war criminals, albeit men of lesser wickedness than Brunner. Egypt still pays pensions to the vicious police agents who tortured prisoners, including Jews, during Nasser's reign.

The two pro-Israeli Lebanese militiamen believed to be responsible for murdering two Irish UN soldiers in 1980 were allowed to pass through Ben Gurion airport at Tel Aviv after the killings, en route for Detroit – where they lived for several years before safely returning home via Israel. Iraq continues to protect agents who killed for the state before Saddam Hussein came to power.

The truth is that police agents, however brutal, have a kind of immunity. If they were made to account for their crimes, however terrible, how would intelligence men loyal to a new government be certain they too might not be made to pay for their sins when power peacefully changed hands? Even after death, it seems, they are safe.

Safer, perhaps, than the "peace process" – whose death is only acknowledged by France. The French government has spoken more loudly than any other European administration about the danger of an imminent "explosion" in the Middle East and largely blamed Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, for the crisis. By inviting President Assad to Paris, Mr Chirac is trying to ensure France's central role in the region's politics – as an *interlocuteur valable* of more use to the Arabs now they no longer trust the United States. By coming to Paris, despite the protests of French Jewish groups, President Assad is helping to give France that role.

A former victim of the Nazi concentration camps holds up his prison shirt during a protest in France *AP*

Japan's dark secrets surface in garden

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY
in Tokyo

FROM THE surface of the earth, nowhere looks less sinister than Toyama Park. Situated in Shinjuku Ward, in central Tokyo, it is an unremarkable little place of trees and gravel, where workers take their sandwiches and old ladies walk poodles.

But the ground beneath contains a horrible secret. Over the last few months bureaucrats, politicians and local people have been passing it from one to the other, a hot potato no one wishes to grasp.

The story begins more than 60 years ago as the Japanese Imperial Army marched through Manchuria. In the city of Harbin, a special division was established, officially called the Prevention of Epidemics and Water Supply Section, but more often known as Unit 731.

Its function was to develop and test biological and chemical weapons, including anthrax and bubonic plague. But the worst thing about Unit 731 was the means which its doctors used to carry out their research: experiments on live prisoners, who were deliberately infected and dissected while they were still alive.

Most of the human experiments took place in Harbin but, according to the accounts of former Unit 731 members, experiments were also carried out in the Imperial Army's medical college and research headquarters – now the site of Toyama Park.

The park is about to be dug up for the construction of a public sports ground. The project will involve excavating the site where human experiments are believed to have taken place, threatening to bring the whole, horrible episode literally up to the surface. For Toyama Park is a mass grave. Nine years ago, 200 bodies, from several Asian races, were dug up from a nearby construction site. Former employees claim that on the site of the park, in the brief period after the Japanese surrender and before the US occupation, the bodies of the murdered human guinea pigs were buried.

Estimates of the numbers killed by Unit 731 in Manchuria range from 3,000 to 30,000. Most were Chinese. They included Koreans, Russians, Americans, French and Britons. The youngest were just babies. The "logs", as they were referred to by their captors, were cut open while conscious and their organs removed. For decades, Japan refused to acknowledge the existence of Unit 731, until the Eighties, when increasing numbers of elderly former members of the unit began speaking out.

"My colleagues said they dug a hole 10 metres deep and for a month after the surrender they threw bodies into it," said one former nurse, quoted in yesterday's *Asahi* newspaper.

Plans to proceed with the sports centre are now on hold since a local citizens' group filed a petition demanding that a full excavation be carried out before any construction goes ahead. "Many local people want this sports centre," says Noboru Watanabe, the protest group's leader. "We're not against the plan, but we want to prevent the historical facts from being concealed."

IN BRIEF

Berlusconi given two years' jail

A COURT in Milan convicted the media mogul and former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi of bribing tax inspectors and sentenced him to two years and nine months' jail. It came after more than two years of trial for Berlusconi, who is leader of Italy's centre-right opposition.

Serbs claim Kosovo success

SERB POLICE fighting ethnic Albanian insurgents in a village near one of Kosovo's largest cities forced them to retreat, Serb sources said. The pro-government Serb Media Centre said the Kosovo Liberation Army retreated from Lodja, near Pec.

Sub puts satellite into orbit

A RUSSIAN nuclear submarine successfully launched a German research satellite from the Barents Sea. The *Novomoskovsk*, from the Northern Fleet, launched a booster which put the Tubsat-N satellite into orbit.

Bridge collapse kills 25

AS MANY as 25 people are feared dead after a bridge under construction collapsed in South Africa's eastern Mpumalanga province.

Christians detained in Riyadh

TEN CHRISTIANS are being held in jail in the Saudi Arabian capital, Riyadh, for possessing bibles and preaching Christian scripture, an independent Vatican news agency, Fides, said yesterday.

UN upgrades Palestine status

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

TO THE irritation of Israel and the US, the United Nations General Assembly last night upgraded the status of the Palestine Liberation Organisation – "Palestine" as it is known at the UN – granting it some rights thus far enjoyed only by fully fledged member states.

Under the proposals, which were carried by 124 votes to 4 with 10 abstentions, the PLO will be able to take part in debates, co-sponsor resolutions and raise points of order when Middle East affairs were being discussed.

But its basic observer status, which it has enjoyed since 1974, will stay. This means that the Palestinians will still not be entitled to vote or put up candidates for election to UN posts.

Although British diplomats are describing the changes as "technical," and deliberately framed in such a way as not to worsen tensions in the region, they are an unmistakable signal of the impatience of most of the rest of the world at the blocking tactics of the Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, which have brought what passes for the Middle East peace process to a standstill.

But in its attacks on the UN move, Israel based its case on the 1993 Oslo agreements, which call for the future of Palestine's component parts, the Gaza strip and the West Bank, to be determined in so-called "final status" talks.

Upgrading the PLO's status now, says Dore Gold, Israel's UN ambassador, "pre-empts the outcome of the permanent status negotiations" and could drastically change the role of the PLO in the UN's deliberations. But that objection will cut little ice with the vast bulk of UN members who point out that the original target of May 1999 for a "final settlement" is, to all intents and purposes, dead and buried, thanks to Mr Netanyahu.

The upgrading, whereby the PLO delegation would rank ahead of other observers and be granted six seats in the Assembly chamber, is small beer compared to what might happen if Yasser Arafat goes through with his threat to declare an independent Palestine on Gaza and the West Bank next May, assuming the "final settlement" has not been reached.

Israel's certain reaction would be to annex the territories – a step which could detonate a new Middle East war. In Israel itself, pressure is mounting for Mr Netanyahu finally to make up his mind on the latest American plan to break the deadlock.

Two right-wing cabinet ministers have said a decision is necessary "within days" on whether to agree to Washington's proposal of withdrawal from a further 13 per cent of the West Bank in return for solid guarantees on security from Mr Arafat.

Fighting spirit of a town so bad they named it twice

AMERICAN TIMES
LAS VEGAS, NEW MEXICO

"PEOPLE DRIVING down the freeway will often stop and ask where all the casinos are," said Joan Snider, a reporter on the venerable daily newspaper the *Las Vegas Optic* (circulation: 6,500).

No matter that Las Vegas, Nevada, is a long day's drive to the west. "I've kind of quit being surprised how ignorant people can be," she says caustically.

Welcome to the *other* Las Vegas, a weird time-capsule of old New Mexico where dogs howl at the peeling bells in the Catholic churches, and there's not a casino in sight. Its full name is Nuestra Senora de los Dolores de Las Vegas, Our Lady of Sorrows of the Meadows.

"*That* is the other Las Vegas," declares Anne Bradford, a native of Sussex and the proprietor of The Carriage House Bed and Breakfast, set in a stately 19th-century home. "This is the original, founded in 1835."

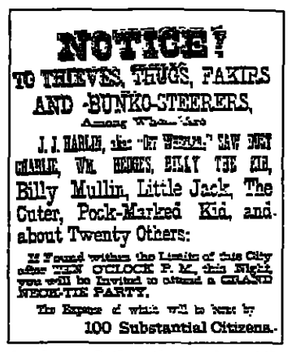
Las Vegas is a loaded phrase in popular culture, says Melanie LaBorwit, the curator of the city museum. But few people stop to think what the Spanish means – the meadows. It has fed local suspicion that the desert gambling mecca, an eminently 20th-century city, pinched its name from here.

Nevada's Las Vegas was founded at a time when its namesake in New Mexico was a famous – or notorious – frontier boom town. When Melanie LaBorwit's uncle writes to her, he puts the words "New Mexico" in big, red capitals. The mail *still* goes to Nevada. Las Vegas residents actually struggle under what in American parlance is a "double whammy".

Residents here insist that many Americans, particularly in the East, do not even realise that New Mexico is part of the United States. That comes as some surprise to those of us that assumed every American school child could at least recite the names of the 50 states. When Joan Snider was wiring money here from California for the downpayment on a house, for example, senior staff at a local bank told her they couldn't locate the overseas banking code.

An encounter with Las Vegas itself is apt to leave an outsider dazed and confused. Off the beaten tourist track, it has largely escaped the flood of wealthy émigrés that has transformed nearby Santa Fe *into an artsy and expensive* destination for the California crowd, a process the locals call "Californication".

The town sits on the point where the Rockies end and the vast flatness of the great plains begins. The heart sinks as you approach through the usual strip of motels *and mini-malls. But a sign to the old* town winds through to the plaza where there is a bandstand encircled by trees, and a row of 19th-century brick buildings that look like the false front of a Western movie set.



A sign of the times in 19th century Las Vegas

After its days as a violent pioneer city on the Santa Fe trail, attracting the likes of Doc Holliday and *Wyatt Earp, and then as a bustling* rail head, Las Vegas went into a kind of cold storage, bypassed first by the freeways, then by the airlines. The town has 900 listed historic buildings. They stand preserved, it is said, because the city's economy died, and no one had the money to tear them down.

Las Vegas has never recovered, and there is still an abandoned air about the place. Unemployment stays high, with local businesses hobbled by poor water supplies and a short tourist season.

The original settlers here were not the American cowboys, but Spanish colonists, with 29 families given a grant of land by Mexico in 1835. For most of this century, Las Vegas was actually divided into *two rival cities – older and Hispanic* West Las Vegas, with the newer and Anglo Las Vegas.

Separated by the Galinas river they were not formally joined until 1970. It is the Spanish influence that still shapes much of the local culture.

Appearances apart, the city operates on a profoundly different dynamic from the rest of the West. Independence Day is celebrated here with *caballeros* (horsemen) and *mariachi* bands, kicking off with a Catholic mass and presided over by La Reina de la Fiesta, the local beauty queen.

At the local college – the main employer, along with a state mental hospital – nearly three-quarters of the students are Hispanic. Older people speak a Spanish dialect particular to the area. It contains words like "*truje*", the past tense of "to bring", instead of "*traje*", the contemporary word. Linguists say these words are found in Cervantes' *Don Quixote*, signs of an antique Spanish that was largely *isolated from outside change*.

Other mysteries abound. In the remote rural villages round Las Vegas, people say they still follow Easter walks behind Penitentes, a secretive Catholic brotherhood of men who beat themselves on holy occasions, though the practice is slowly dying out.

Some families in this heavily Catholic community, it is said, have long kept another kind of secret – that their forefathers were actually Jews who fled to the colonies of New Spain and then went underground in the face of Catholic persecution.

Las Vegas, New Mexico, could not be more different from its Nevada cousin. But as a largely undiscovered slice of Americana, it is easily its rival.

TIM CORNWELL

Schoolchildren hold anti-smoking signs at the Great American SmokeScream in Massachussetts, one of many recent demonstrations against the tobacco industry *Susan Walsh/AP*

Sick smokers in massive lawsuit

BY PHIL DAVISON
in Miami

THEY COUGHED and they wheezed, some even inhaled deeply from tiny oxygen tanks they had brought into a packed Miami courtroom yesterday. They were among an estimated half a million lung-damaged residents of Florida who hope to squeeze billions of dollars out of the big tobacco companies.

It is the first class-action suit by sick smokers ever to come to trial. It involves the largest *number of claimants and* potentially the largest-ever payout, in the billions of dollars. And it is the biggest courtroom test for "Big Tobacco" since a proposed pact with the government, aimed at ending America's tobacco war, fell apart earlier this year.

Hundreds of claimants and spectators squeezed into the Miami-Dade district courthouse to follow the selection of a pool of 66 jurors, a process likely to take several weeks as a result of entrenched opinions and widespread publicity over the extent of the tobacco companies' *responsibilities for* smoking-related illnesses. The trial itself – listed as *Engle et al versus RJ Reynolds et al* – is likely to last many months.

Despite, or perhaps because of, the collapse of the proposed tobacco bill, the big manufacturers are confident of victory *this time round. They note that* previous cases in which they settled out of court were made in the climate of the pending pact with the government.

"Things were different then. There was a climate of compromise. There'll be no deals this time round," said a tobacco company spokesman, who added he believed the industry had regained the upper hand in the debate over responsibility.

He noted that a Florida appeals court had overturned a $750,000 (£450,000) award to a cancer-suffering smoker last month, citing irregularities in the original finding. The award to Grady Carter in 1996 had been billed as a "milestone" by *the anti-tobacco movement* because it was only the second time a jury had awarded damages in a smoking liability case.

But after the successful appeal, the cigarette maker involved, Brown and Williamson, described the ruling as "a major victory" and predicted it *would affect the outcome of* more than 500 individual lawsuits still pending in the US.

In this latest case, the tobacco lawyers argue that the number of claimants is too high for one case to cover. The lawyers arguing for the claimants began their case with one emphysema-*sufferer, Dr Howard Engle, in* 1994, but then widened the mandate to include any smoking-related sick resident of Florida. The tobacco lawyers argue that most of these moved to the state after they became sick and should not be included.

France takes the knife to exploding health budget

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

FRENCH POLITICS is littered with the fractured careers of those who tried to reform the country's health system. The most recent victim was Alain Juppé, the prime minister defeated last year.

The latest hero – or heroine – to offer to fight the dragon is Martine Aubry, Minister of Solidarity (employment and social security), who wants to cut up to £300m from an exploding health budget before the end of the year.

As a first round of emergency *surgery, she is to impose* reductions on the steeply rising payments made to dentists, radiologists and pharmaceutical companies. She is also seeking a longer-term cure.

The Draconian approach adopted by Mr Juppé – across-the-board "fines" on doctors in regions which exceeded their budget – proved effective. But it also generated strikes and demonstrations by doctors and was declared unconstitutional earlier this year.

The ruling, by the constitutional council, left France with*out a strategy for controlling a* health budget which is now the third largest in the world. France spends 9.8 per cent of its GNP on health – in other words almost one franc of every 10 francs it earns. This compares to 14.2 per cent in the United States, 10.4 per cent in Germany and 6.9 per cent in Britain.

The deficit on the public health budget this year is supposed to be pegged at £1.2bn but the scrapping of the Juppé controls threatens to shatter this figure. Ms Aubry has announced a series of negotiations with all branches of the medical profession and the health industry to try to find other ways of controlling spending before the end of the year. She has warned that some system of penalties on doctors, more "flexible" than those imposed by Mr Juppé, will be introduced if the negotiations fail.

In particular, Ms Aubry *wants to be the first person to* stop the French from guzzling so much expensive medicine. A report to the health ministry earlier this year found that the French consume two and a half times more antibiotics than the Germans (the next most heavily dosed European nation) and three times more psychiatric drugs than the European Union average.

More than one-third of French people over 65 take be*tween five and ten different* medicines a day. (In France, the newspaper *Libération* observed, old age is now considered a disease.)

As a first step to controlling a prescriptions budget 9 per cent overspent this year, Ms Aubry wants to give high-street chemists the power to issue cheaper generic medicines, in the place of branded medicines prescribed by doctors.

In the longer term, she wants to educate patients and doctors into demanding and prescribing fewer medicines.

Here, she runs into the fundamental generosity and freedom of the French health system. French people can change doctors as they please and even visit specialists without prior consultation with GPs. Fees are refunded by the state within an approved scale. Doctors who refuse to prescribe a satisfyingly high number of drugs find that their patients mi*grate to those doctors who do.*

The Juppé plan introduced inducements to encourage patients to abandon this so-called "nomadism" and stick with one doctor. This sensible idea was also rejected by the constitutional council.

US military hit by new sex scandal

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

WASHINGTON was hit by another highly embarrassing military sex scandal yesterday, with the disclosure that a senior general had been permitted to retire with full honour, even though he was the subject of serious accusations of misconduct. The case appeared to support the widely held suspicion that the military operates a double standard where sexual misconduct is concerned, with indulgence shown to senior officers and court martial for the rest.

In the latest case, a Pentagon inquiry has found that a two-star American general engaged "in a pattern of inap*propriate behaviour*" with the wives of four subordinates while serving in a senior Nato position in Turkey.

The inquiry concluded that General David Hale, who was deputy commanding general of Nato land forces in south-eastern Europe until a year ago, had also permitted *government* funds to be used for travel by a mistress, and made "false and misleading statements" to investigators.

The inquiry was instituted earlier this year following accusations by Donnamaria Carpino, wife of one of Gen Hale's subordinates, that he had blackmailed her into a sexual relationship. Ms Carpino, who is now divorced, said the general had promised to protect her husband from, unproven, allegations of adultery if she agreed to "a sexual commitment".

She went public with her accusations in March, after Gen Hale – by then promoted to the US Army's deputy head of personnel – had been permitted to retire with full honours a month into the investigation of his conduct. She and her ex-husband joined forces to protest against the decision, recounting their experience in the right-wing *Washington Times. In a television* interview yesterday, Ms Carpino described Gen Hale's conduct as "psychological rape".

The Pentagon's inquiry established that Ms Carpino was one of four women who were the subject of improper attention from Gen Hale during his two-year assignment in Izmir.

Carolyn Maloney, a Democrat Congresswoman from New York, who has been active in pursuit of sexual misconduct complaints in the military, said that the findings and the way they had come out confirmed her "worst suspicions".

Gen Hale, she said, "is retired somewhere, fat and happy, while others who are accused of much lesser crimes face court martials [sic], public humiliation and financial ruin."

Earlier this year, the former top enlisted man in the US Army, Sgt Gene McKinney, was forced to retire early after being *court-martialled on multiple* counts of sexual harassment, only one of which was proved.

Last year, Kelly Flynn, the first female B52 pilot, was given a dishonourable discharge after lying about an affair with the civilian husband of another soldier. Both insisted that senior officers facing similar accusations were permitted to continue their service or retire with honour.

The outcry that followed these cases led the Pentagon to give an undertaking that no officer would be permitted to re*tire while an investigation* was in progress.

Yesterday, the Pentagon said Gen Hale would be punished if the criminal investigation which it has now instigated showed "significant" misconduct.

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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Lloyd's settles over HQ repairs

A LONG-RUNNING row between Lloyd's of London and the builders of its revolutionary "inside out" headquarters building on Lime Street has been settled.

The architect, Sir Richard Rogers, engineer Ove Arup and contractor Bovis are understood to have paid an undisclosed sum to Lloyd's covering the costs of refurbishment work. Lloyd's was believed to be looking for up to £12m after it had to replace outside service pipes.

Lloyd's officials refused to give details about the settlement, citing confidentiality. Claims were also settled against Haden Young and Senior Construction Services.

Shares in housebuilder plunge

HOUSEBUILDER the Berkeley Group yesterday saw its shares fall steeply as investors took fright over possible interest-rate rises and a downturn in the housing market. The shares fell 30.5p to 585p despite chairman Graham Roper predicting a "soft landing" for house prices. Berkeley's profits grew by 34 per cent to £100.3m in the year to 30 April while profits at estate agents Savills rose 49 per cent to £11.3m. Savills' 870 staff shared windfall payments totalling £14.6m.

Savills report, page 19. Berkeley: Investment, page 21

Victor Kiam takes over at Ronson

THE UPHEAVAL at Ronson, the troubled lighters and sunglasses group, continued yesterday when Victor Kiam, the colourful US entrepreneur, took over as executive chairman. His move follows the resignation of chief executive Richard Furse and his deputy Lars Rydstrom.

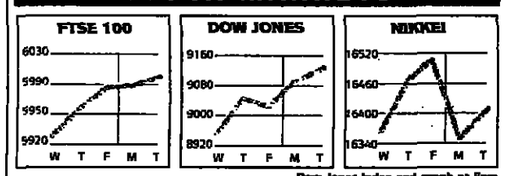
Mr Kiam, who once famously bought Remington, the razor blade maker, because he liked its product so much, was brought in as non-executive chairman earlier this year after he helped to guarantee Ronson's bank overdraft. The company, which warned in May that it expected to make a loss of around £11.5m, is trying to put together a refinancing package. Ronson has been reeling ever since Howard Hodgson, the former funeral parlour king, resigned as chief executive last year.

P&O faces £200m EU fine

P&O could be heading for a £200m fine from the European Union over allegations of price fixing in the North Atlantic container freight markets. But the shipping company would contest any fine in the courts, said broker Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, which met the company earlier this week.

DKB maintained its full-year 1998 pre-tax profit forecast at £440m despite the possible EU fine and continuing poor freight earnings in Asian markets.

STOCK MARKETS

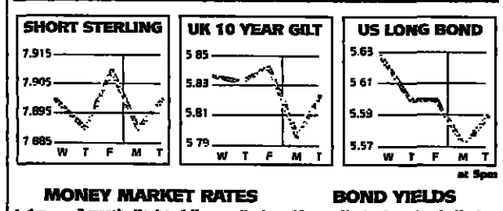


Dow Jones Index and graph at 5pm

INDICES

Index	Close	Change	Change(%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield(%)
FTSE 100	6003.40	13.10	0.22	6150.50	4382.80	3.80
FTSE 250	5603.30	14.80	0.27	5970.90	4384.20	3.47
FTSE 350	2888.60	6.60	0.23	2940.10	2141.80	3.74
FTSE All Share	2812.87	5.74	0.20	2872.04	2106.59	3.71
FTSE SmallCap	2594.90	-3.70	-0.14	2793.80	2182.10	3.20
FTSE Fledgling	1420.90	-5.60	-0.39	1517.10	1225.20	3.35
FTSE AIM	1094.30	-0.70	-0.06	1146.90	965.90	1.16
FTSE EBLOC 100	1084.02	3.56	0.33	...	...	...
Dow Jones	9130.13	38.86	0.43	9261.91	6971.32	1.57
Nikkei	16416.28	65.83	0.40	20698.67	14488.21	0.93
Hang Seng	8444.18	-39.94	-0.47	16820.31	7351.68	4.85
Dax	5960.98	42.61	0.72	5986.14	3487.24	2.66

INTEREST RATES



at 5pm

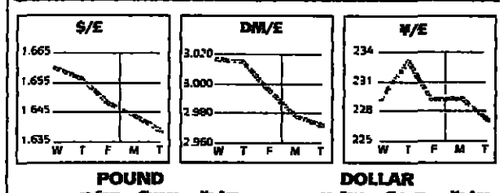
MONEY MARKET RATES

Index	3 month	Yr chg	1 Year	Yr chg
UK	7.88	0.81	8.00	0.55
US	5.69	-0.06	5.81	-0.22
Japan	0.62	-0.02	0.64	-0.16
Germany	3.55	0.43	3.83	0.57

BOND YIELDS

10 year	Yr chg	Long bond	Yr chg
5.82	-1.19	5.40	-1.51
5.41	-0.85	5.59	-0.98
1.61	-0.94	2.14	-0.89
4.72	-0.83	5.30	-1.06

CURRENCIES



POUND

	at 5pm	Change	Yr Ago
Dollar	1.6380	-0.64c	1.6872
D-Mark	2.9723	-0.63pf	2.9539
Yen	227.16	-¥3.51	190.48
£ Index	105.90	0.00	103.30

DOLLAR

	at 5pm	Change	Yr Ago
Sterling	0.6105	+0.24p	0.5927
D-Mark	1.8143	+0.29pf	1.7512
Yen	138.74	-¥-1.59	112.78
$ Index	112.80	0.00	101.90

OTHER INDICATORS

	Close	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Chg	Yr ago	Next figs
Brent Oil ($)	11.35	-0.14	18.16	GDP	114.80	3.00	111.46	Aug
Gold ($)	294.60	1.20	318.00	RPI	163.50	4.20	156.91	Jul
Silver ($)	5.35	0.02	4.47	Base Rates			7.50	6.50

*at 5pm

www.bloomberg.com/uk SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

TOURIST RATES

Australia	2.5514	Japan	225.61
Austria	20.22	Malta	0.6226
Belgium	59.43	New Zealand	3.0347
Canada	2.3437	Norway	12.28
Cyprus	0.8377	Portugal	290.96
Denmark	11.04	Saudi Arabia	5.9525
Finland	8.7961	South Africa	9.7881
France	9.6249	Spain	243.52
Germany	2.8857	Sweden	12.91
Greece	477.22	Switzerland	2.4296
Holland	3.2436	Turkey	419262.00
Hong Kong	12.26	USA	1.5961
Ireland	1.1365		
Italy	2845.00		

source: Extel

Home of RAF sold to escape front-line cuts

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

THE MINISTRY of Defence yesterday sold part of Farnborough airfield to the property company Slough Estates as part of the Government's drive to raise £1bn a year from asset sales.

Slough is to take over a 180-acre site containing the original headquarters of the Royal Air Force and a number of listed buildings, including one of the UK's first wind tunnels. It is investing £250m to redevelop the land, regarded as the largest available commercial site in the M3 corridor.

The MoD has the biggest land bank of any Whitehall department and disposals are currently raising about £350m a year, helping offset budget cuts for front line forces .

Slough said it planned to develop 1.6 million sq ft of office space at Farnborough. The site is adjacent to the Farnborough Aerodrome, home of the airshow, which has been sold to the Swiss company Tag Hauer.

Hillier Parker, which handled the sale on behalf of the Defence Estate Organisation, the MoD's property arm, said it had received 11 bids, of which seven were shortlisted. One of two main agents for the DEO, it is handling 3,000 acres of MoD land currently up for sale.

The drive to increase revenues from property sales follows the publication last November of the National Asset Register, a 546-page Domesday Book of the state's £300bn asset portfolio, listing everything from stud farms and artillery ranges to highland crofts and works of art and motorway service stations.

Nicola Maxted, a partner with Hillier Parker, said: "The MoD has always brought forward land for sale when it was deemed surplus to requirements. Sometimes there are not many buyers around, for instance in the early Nineties. But just now, by a happy coincidence for the Chancellor, the market is more buoyant."

The £1bn worth of Whitehall asset sales, coupled with a further £2.75bn of local authority asset sales a year, are designed to help Mr Brown achieve his target of increasing public spending in real terms by 2.25 per cent a year while balancing the budget. There have also been suggestions that the Foreign Office's vast overseas property portfolio, including more than 1,000 apartments, 136 offices and 157 residences may be ripe for asset-stripping.

Other government departments with healthy portfolios that could be exploited include Culture, Media and Sport, which owns Trafalgar Square, Marble Arch, 58 statues in London and all its prime museums.

Rover warns strong pound may force a move overseas

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

ROVER warned yesterday that it may have to move future model production abroad if sterling remains at its present high level.

The car maker, taken over by BMW of Germany in 1994, also said it was conducting an immediate review of its £4bn component spend to see whether it could source more parts from overseas suppliers.

Rover, Britain's biggest car maker, employs 40,000 people directly, but a total of 300,000 UK jobs depend on the company's operations. Any move to scale back component purchases or car production would have a severe impact.

"The high value of the pound is affecting our competitiveness abroad and this is serious because we export about 57 per cent of our cars," said a Rover spokesman. "In the long term you have to consider manufacturing abroad."

Rover stressed there was no intention to shift existing production, adding that the jobs of its 35,000-strong manufacturing workforce, the Longbridge, Cowley and Solihull car plants, and the £600m annual investment programme were all secure.

Nor is the company's immediate model renewal programme about to change. A replacement for the Rover 600-800 series, codenamed the R40, is to go into production later this year after a £400m investment at Cowley. The successor to the Mini, due out in 2000, will still be built at Longbridge, creating 1,000 jobs.

But one company course said that if the choice of where to make the new Mini were being made today, the UK would not be the automatic favourite because of the strong pound.

An unnamed company executive, quoted in the latest edition of *Auto Express Magazine*, said the strength of sterling had plunged Rover into a "crisis". He added: "The current situation is so serious that we have to consider the possibility of building abroad."

But yesterday the company sought to temper those remarks. "We are not in a crisis at the moment nor are we looking to see if we can move production in the near or medium term. But the pound is way overvalued and it is hurting us. It is a serious situation."

Dr Walter Hasselkus, the chief executive of Rover, has cautioned before that the strength of sterling could force a review of component purchasing. Between 80 and 90 per cent of each Rover car is local content, but this figure could come down to 70 to 75 per cent.

The engine for the new Mini is being built at a plant in Brazil jointly owned by BMW and Chrysler of the US, and Rover is looking for other opportunities to source overseas.

The company has limited overseas production at the moment. It makes Land Rovers from kits in South Africa and a similar operation is to begin in Brazil next year. BMW has a US plant making the Z3 sports car.

The spokesman said Rover would like to see sterling at around DM2.70 compared to its current rate of DM2.97. He added that the strength of the pound was jeopardising Rover's target to move into profit by the end of the decade.

Last year Rover cut its bottom-line loss from £119m to £92m despite sterling's rise. Overall, 56 per cent of the 520,000 cars sold were exported, with Continental sales rising sharply. Sales to Italy were up by more than a third while German sales rose by 41 per cent.

This year exports are likely to be at a similar level of around 290,000 but, at current exchange rates, they will not be profitable.

Outlook, page 17

Rover's plants in the UK employ 40,000 people directly, but about 300,000 jobs depend on the car maker's operations. Sourcing more parts abroad could seriously affect suppliers
Rex Features

'Collusion' on Nissan raid

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

THE Inland Revenue was yesterday accused in the High Court of "colluding" with Nissan Motor Cars (NMC), the Japanese car maker, in a raid on Nissan UK, the company headed by exiled businessman Octav Botnar.

In the latest stage of a legal saga involving now-withdrawn allegations of fraud against Mr Botnar and his company, Alun Jones QC, acting for Mr Botnar, claimed that a raid by 135 Inland Revenue officers on Nissan UK's headquarters in 1991 "indicated collusion" with the Japanese parent company. The claim is denied by NMC and the Inland Revenue.

Mr Jones told the High Court that following the raid, a distribution deal due to be signed between Nissan UK and Fiat, the Italian car maker, came to nothing. The deal was aimed at ensuring the financial survival of Nissan UK after the Japanese parent company had terminated the agreement which allowed Mr Botnar's firm to import Nissan cars into Britain.

"There is evidence of collusion with NMC which had powerful commercial interests to serve," Mr Jones told the court.

The hearing is to decide whether a legal action started by 84-year-old Mr Botnar against the Inland Revenue and two of its senior officers should proceed. The tax authorities have argued the action should not go ahead as it is bound to fail, noting that two of Mr Botnar's fellow directors were convicted over related matters.

In a writ issued in February, Mr Botnar claimed damages for malicious prosecution in relation to two warrants of arrest issued by the Revenue in 1992 and 1995 for alleged tax fraud.

The Revenue had dropped the case at the end of 1997 following evidence that Mr Botnar was too ill to stand trial.

An Inland Revenue spokesman yesterday declined to comment on the hearing.

The case was adjourned until Monday.

Our Price is sold to Virgin

WH SMITH will announce today that it has completed the sale of its 75 per cent stake in the Virgin-Our Price music chain to Richard Branson's Virgin Group for £145m, writes Nigel Cope.

However, there was some confusion over whether the deal had been completed yesterday after the full acquisition price failed to arrive at WH Smith's bankers in time.

The deal gives Virgin control of 235 Our Price music shops as well as its own 80 megastores. The business will be part of Virgin Entertainment, run by Simon Burke, a former board director of WH Smith.

Virgin Entertainment includes Virgin's 31 cinemas in the UK and Ireland. Part of the group's strategy will be to speed up the introduction of retail outlets in the cinemas.

Virgin is appointing separate managing directors for the megastore and Our Price formats. "We feel the Our Price format has been under-exploited," Mr Burke said.

Former accountant is heir apparent at RBS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

DR GEORGE Mathewson, group chief executive of Royal Bank of Scotland, has picked a 39-year-old former accountant, Fred Goodwin, to succeed him when he retires from the top job in May 2000.

Mr Goodwin, currently chief executive of Yorkshire Bank, was appointed deputy group chief executive of RBS yesterday.

He sprang to fame in 1992 as chief executive officer for the worldwide liquidation of Bank of Credit and Commerce International when he was a partner with Touche Ross, the accountancy firm.

Dr Mathewson stressed yesterday that no decision had yet been made on the succession, but observers interpreted Mr Goodwin's appointment as ending a long period of speculation about the future of RBS.

Mr Goodwin graduated in law before joining Touche Ross (now Deloitte & Touche) in 1979. Between 1982 and 1995 hewas in charge of the administrative side of running the liquidation of BCCI, the biggest business collapse in history. This won Mr Goodwin acclaim in accountancy and banking circles.

Fred Goodwin: Sprang to fame in BCCI liquidation

A Deloitte & Touche spokesman said yesterday: "Mr Goodwin impressed the hell out of every banker he ever met."

National Australia Group (NAG) recruited Mr Goodwin in 1995 to be deputy chief executive of its Scottish subsidiary, Clydesdale Bank, where he became well acquainted with Dr Mathewson. Mr Goodwin took the top job there and in 1997 was appointed chief executive of another NAG subsidiary, Yorkshire Bank.

Dr Mathewson said Mr Goodwin will take over Bob Speirs' role as finance director of RBS when the latter retires this October. Mr Goodwin will also work closely together with Dr Mathewson on strategic issues, the chief executive said.

Separately, Fred Grauer, co-chair of Barclays Global Investors (BGI), and Richard Reay-Smith, chief executive of UK retail banking, both members of Barclays' executive committee, have decided to leave the group.

Barclays said yesterday that as part of a management shake-up, Pattie Dunn, currently co-chair of BGI, and Elizabeth Wade, director of corporate communications, have been appointed to the executive committee.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

FOR THE FIFTH consecutive session blue chips made headway with Footsie ending 13.1 points higher at 6,003.4.

At one time it was 46.3 ahead but nagging fears the Monetary Policy Committee could produce another interest rate surprise took the edge off proceedings. The mid cap index was also firm but the small cap index was again weak as the difficulty of trading in small shares took its toll. BT crossed 800p for the first time, up 14p at 805p. **Derek Pain, page 21**

NEW YORK

WALL STREET stocks turned handily positive in late-morning trading,led by strength in blue-chip issues.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average, down slightly for much of the morning, started climbing by midday. The dollar fell back to 138 against the yen amid new hopes that Tokyo will soon push through new tax cuts. But the dollar gained ground against the German mark as investors worried more about Russia's financial woes.

TOKYO

STOCKS finished higher after politicians suggested that Japan would work towards permanent tax cuts after Sunday's election.

A modestly stronger yen helped support shares. The Nikkei 225 average rose 65.83 points, or 0.40 per cent, to 16,416.28. Comments by the LDP bolstered optimism that talks on tax reform were in their final stages. Earlier, the Economic Planning Agency said the government would begin considering permanent tax cuts after the 12 July election.

SINGAPORE

SHARES were pushed back from morning highs after Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong said Singapore was likely to slide into recession in 1999.

This sent the Singapore dollar sliding towards US$1.70. The Straits Times Industrials Index ended at 1,115.18, down 12.33 points or 1.09 per cent. A week ago, Singapore cut its growth forecast for 1998 to between 0.5 and 1.5 per cent from 2.5 to 4.5 per cent because of the Asian economic crisis.

GERMANY

AIRLINE Lufthansa led stocks up after Salomon Smith Barney, the US investment bank, raised its target price and earnings forecast.

The benchmark DAX Xetra index of 30 companies rose 33.81 points, or 0.57 per cent, to 5,975.88, after surging to a high of 5,998.92.

Lufthansa gained DM3.9, more than 7 per cent, rising to a high of DM54.8. Salomon Smith Barney raised the company's target to DM52 from DM44 and raised its earnings per share forecast for 1999 to DM2.49 from DM2.43.

London embraces our euro future

OUTLOOK

FIRST the single European market, then the single European currency, now the single European stock market. It is hard to overstate the significance of yesterday's link between the London Stock Exchange and the Deutsche Borse (Frankfurt) to develop a common exchange for the trading of shares in major European companies. This is the first big league attempt at the creation of integrated capital markets in Europe and as such, it may be as momentous an event for the City as Big Bang or the ending of foreign exchange controls.

True, there have already been a number of alliances between European derivative markets, but these have been small beer by comparison and have tended in any case to be characterised by mutual mistrust. Furthermore, the most important futures market in Europe, Liffe, has doggedly refused to join the party, preferring instead to go it alone and hope against hope that it can run fast enough ahead of the pack to retain its present dominant position.

In the past, we've been a critic in this column of Gavin Casey, chief executive of the London Stock Exchange. The changeover from quote to order driven trading has not been handled well and the new system is widely seen in the City as a disaster. Nonetheless, the Stock Exchange deserves credit for this latest initiative. Rather than bury his head in the sand, as Liffe seems to have done, Mr Casey has chosen to adopt a radical, forward looking approach to the introduction of the euro, and by doing so, he might long term have saved the London Exchange and perhaps the City too from oblivion.

Moreover, he has done so in a manner which hedges the Exchange's bets. If the single currency is a success, and capital markets integrate in the manner required to make the euro a strong reserve currency on a par with the dollar, then this plan ensures that the Exchange and London will always be at the centre of that process. But if the currency fails to make that leap, then nothing is lost; London would be the default centre of preference and its present position as the biggest trader of international equities would be retained.

Many will see this announcement as a defensive, an "if you cannot beat them join them", approach to the growing competitive threat the European bourses, and particularly the Deutsche Borse, pose to the London market. Undoubtedly there is an element of that in what the LSE is doing. That competition between London and Frankfurt for major listings should cease is in some respects a bad thing. But it is also probably inevitable. There are 39 stock exchanges in Europe and still their combined capitalisation adds up to a good deal less than that of the three big exchanges in the US - the Big Board, Nasdaq, and the American Stock Exchange. The latter two of these are merging, reducing the number of serious exchanges in the US to just two.

Already some European high tech companies are choosing to list on Nasdaq, where valuations are higher and access to capital easier, in preference to its European counterparts. Nasdaq's saturation bombing of the airwaves adds to the sense of siege being felt by European markets. Quite apart from the need to adapt for the introduction of the Euro, then, some degree of consolidation would plainly be necessary in any case. The to the death battle developing between Frankfurt and London was never likely to do either side, or the companies and investors who use these markets, much good.

What's happening is all very well for big, international investors; what of small, nationally based, retail investors? As always, not much thought has been given to what becomes of them. Even so, it is hard to see how what's proposed can disadvantage them any more than they are already, provided adequate arrangements remain in place for trading of smaller company shares.

It was always tempting to think the City could survive and prosper in its present role as an entrepot between nations, an offshore financial centre where everyone likes to do business. Unfortunately, that was never likely to remain the case once the euro had become properly bedded in. It is therefore good to see the stock exchange, for so long the repository of backward looking vested interest, grasping the future with such enthusiasm.

Rover a case for the euro

TIRADES from exporters about the overvalued pound have become about as commonplace as sendings off in the World Cup. But when a manufacturer as high-profile as Rover warns it may start producing cars abroad unless sterling weakens, then it is clear the high exchange rate has the capacity to hurt more than just whingeing exporters.

Cars equal jobs, equal votes, equal parliamentary majorities. Rover, now owned by Germany's BMW, may be over-egging the case to suggest that it provides 300,000 jobs in the UK. But it is reasonable to assume the number is well into six figures, many of them in marginal Midlands constituencies.

It ought to be self-evident that the high pound would be hurting Rover badly since it now exports twice the number of cars it did a decade ago. Overseas markets account for well over half all sales, most of them presumably unprofitable with the pound nudging DM3.

Oddly enough, however, the bare facts do not support Rover's argument. Last year sterling appreciated by about 20 per cent against the German mark. At the same time Rover increased its overseas sales by 13,000 to 290,000 (including a 40 per cent rise in exports to the Fatherland) and still managed to cut its losses from £119m to £92m. Ignoring those alien German accounting conventions which allow companies to write off 100 per cent of investment against profits in a single year, Rover actually made a profit of £31m.

Dr Walter Hasselkus, the German who is now in the driving seat at Longbridge, says Rover's plucky performance in the face of a hostile exchange rate is testament to the efficiency improvements achieved since BMW arrived on the scene in 1994. His point is, however, that it cannot last. Rover's target is to achieve profitability by the end of the decade. Sterling's appreciation is knocking Dr Hasselkus badly off course. BMW has already invested north of £2bn in Rover and has yet to see a return. Munich's patience will only last so long.

Dr Hasselkus and Rover have been to Downing Street once before to lobby the Government for a lower exchange rate. Unfortunately, the answer remains the same. There is little the Prime Minister or his Chancellor can do to talk down the pound – short, that is, of committing sterling to enter the single European currency, preferably this side of the next election. Certainly that would make Rover happy, and would suit BMW even more, not to mention the German political establishment. It is in this context that Rover's threat to sacrifice British jobs needs to be seen.

For every business establishment old timer coming out against the euro, there's now an inward investor warning of dire consequences if we don't take the plunge. It is by no means clear where the balance of business power now lies – pro or anti the euro. But logically all those who complain loudly about the strength of the power ought to find themselves in the former category.

SE signs up for single European bourse

News Analysis: London and Frankfurt bury differences in historic agreement to trade top stocks

BY LEA PATERSON

THE LONDON and German stock exchanges are to join forces, a historic agreement which will pave the way for a single European stock market.

The two exchanges yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding and outlined details of a strategic alliance. The two are to create a 50/50 joint venture, and will work together to develop a pan-European stock market for the largest 300 European companies. Smaller European companies will not be affected by the move, at least not in the short to medium term.

In a press conference at London's Savoy Hotel, John Kemp-Welch, chairman of the London Stock Exchange (LSE), said: "There is much work to be done, but I believe that today is a very important day for both our Exchanges, marking, as it does, the first step along the road to a single European stock market."

The London Stock Exchange and the Deutsche Börse said they hoped to form a "core nucleus" around which a pan-European stock market would be based.

The two intend to invite other exchanges to join them, and Mr Kemp-Welch said that he had yesterday spoken to a number of chairmen and chief executives of other European bourses. The LSE chairman said: "They were all very interested in the concept. We all see the ultimate destination clearly, it's just a question of the route."

Jeremy Seddon, head of British Invisibles, called the news "the most important development since Big Bang."

The announcement marks a watershed in relations between London and Frankfurt. Dr Werner Seifert, chief executive of the Deutsche Börse, said he wanted to "end all speculation about a battle between London and Frankfurt, which was never intended on either side."

Dr Seifert said the Deutsche Börse was still exploring possibilities for co-operation with Nasdaq, the US exchange, but emphasised that the LSE link-up was his top priority.

The first task for the two exchanges, which have been in meaningful negotiations since the spring, will be to establish an administrative structure for their joint venture.

The LSE and the Deutsche Börse have already chosen a "project board", which will steer the work. The six-strong board will consist of the two exchange chief executives – Dr Seifert and Gavin Casey, two Deutsche Börse executive board members and two members of the LSE's management committee. Over the next few weeks, the project board will be picking staff and determining the structure of the "project group", which will be responsible for carrying out the bulk of the development work.

Once the administrative niceties are sorted out, the project group – the exchanges have yet to settle on a proper name for their joint initiative – will get down to business. One of their first tasks will be to begin work on harmonising the market rules and codes of practice which currently apply to the exchanges' largest stocks. Mr Casey said he expected to make significant progress on this front over the next 12 months.

Market participants will notice the first concrete changes on 4 January 1999. From that point on, the London and Frankfurt exchanges will no longer compete for listings of the 300 or so largest European companies. The few top European companies which are currently quoted in both London and Frankfurt will be quoted on just one exchange.

After this preliminary stage, much of the project group's time and energy is expected to be devoted to thinking about the mechanics of the new pan-European exchange. Mr Casey said yesterday that the two intended to develop a "common electronic platform". The question of the most appropriate electronic system will be a thorny one – in recent years, the exchanges have spent substantial amounts of time and money developing proprietary electronic platforms.

Although Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) was a factor behind the link-up, it was not the only factor of relevance, the exchanges said. In a speech in London, Dr Seifert highlighted a number of driving forces, including the presence of large global institutional investors and the pace of technological change. He called the exchanges' strategic alliance "a logical answer to the marginalisation of national and local financial centres."

Mr Casey, like Dr Seifert, talked about the impact of EMU, but also stressed the importance of adapting to the changing needs of customers. He said: "Investors want to invest in Europe by sector, they want access to pan-European liquidity, and pension fund managers will increasingly look to equities as demand for private pensions drives ever upwards."

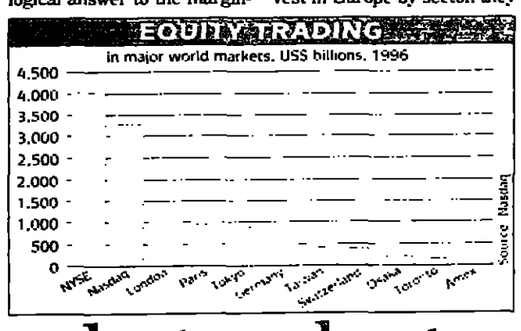
Market reaction to the news was, on the whole, positive. Fund managers, dealers and investors alike spoke of the increased liquidity that the link-up would bring, and speculated that a single European exchange would attract a greater flow of funds from powerful US institutional investors.

The London Investment Banking Association (LIBA) summed up the feelings of the securities industry, saying it "warmly welcomed the creation of a unified, liquid and low-cost European equity market".

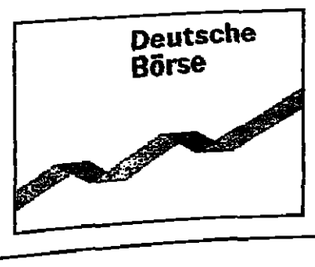
The few dissenting voices highlighted concerns over the potential anti-competitive implications of the link-up. One analyst commented: "It all rather looks like the two exchanges are simply trying to protect their own national monopolies." The exchanges are thought unlikely to face substantial regulatory hurdles, either in London or in Brussels. "The political appeal of all this is just too great," commented one City source.

The other European exchanges now have to act. If they decide to go it alone, they face marginalisation from the global stage. But any European exchange that does join the strategic alliance will inevitably be a very junior partner in a venture that will be spearheaded by the two powerhouses of London and Frankfurt.

At the announcement are (left to right) John Kemp-Welch, LSE chairman; Werner Seifert, Deutsche Börse; and the LSE's Gavin Casey



From coffee-house deals to electronic trading



1553: The world's first joint-stock company, the Muscovy Company, founded in London.
1600s: Steady increase in the number of joint-stock companies and the number of associated brokers. Investors wishing to buy and sell shares meet their brokers in City coffee houses.
1760: A group of 150 brokers are thrown out of the Royal Exchange for being too rowdy. They form a club at Jonathan's Coffee House where they meet to buy and sell shares.
1773: Brokers vote to change the name of Jonathan's Coffee House to the Stock Exchange.
1800s: Stock Exchange flourishes and plays an important role in financing UK companies.
1872: The Exchange Telegraph Company's ticker-tape is introduced, running at six words a minute.
1914: First World War forces the Exchange to close for six months.
1960s: Exchange grows rapidly.
1972: The Queen opens the new Stock Exchange tower.
1973: Regional stock exchanges merged into the London Stock Exchange. Female members admitted for the first time.
1986: Big Bang. Face-to-face dealing on the floor abolished. distinction between jobbers and brokers removed. Exchange becomes private limited company.
1995: AIM Market launched.
1997: Launch of SETS, the Exchange's electronic order-driven trading system.
1998: London Stock Exchange and Deutsche Börse announce strategic alliance.

IN BRIEF

US bank grabs top M&A spot

US INVESTMENT bank Morgan Stanley Dean Witter has grabbed top spot in the *Acquisitions Monthly* league table of advisers on British mergers and acquisitions for the first half of 1998.

Morgan Stanley advised on 12 deals worth a total of £18.1bn, ahead of Schroders in second position. Activity in the British public M&A market reached a new high during the period, "underlining bankers' fears that the current activity is a mirror image of the boom years of 1989, which preceded the recession of 1991," the magazine added. Independently owned Lazards – which topped the 1997 table – was fourth, behind Goldman Sachs.

Talk team meets

THE MANAGEMENT team of Talk Radio, the national station, will today meet with United News & Media and Guardian Media Group, the newspaper publishers, to discuss new media ventures.

The meeting follows the group's failure to win the bidding war for Talk Radio after Kelvin MacKenzie, the former *Sun* editor, tabled a bid worth £25m. The management team yesterday said their bid – thought to be just over £20m – was "full and fair" and that it would remain on the table until a deal was agreed.

IFAs warned

HELEN LIDDELL, the economic secretary to the Treasury, yesterday told 30 senior representatives of IFAs her patience was "exhausted" by the slowness of independent financial advisers in clearing up the £15bn pension mis-selling scandal. IFAs, however, say it is much less clear whether younger personal pension holders in the second phase of the pension review actually suffered mis-selling. The IFA Association estimates firms will have to pay £431,000 each, when their average turnover is just £182,000 a year.

Bond unit closes

TRAVELERS UNIT Salomon has disbanded its US bond-arbitrage operations due to reluctance to absorb the risks of the division's bond bets, according to a Travelers' spokesman. Travelers plans to reassign the unit's 30 traders to other divisions.

THE INDEPENDENT
Wednesday 8 July 1998

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld	Init. Chrg %
ABN AMRO Fundmaker Ltd					
Growth&Income	261	277	-0.61	2.89	5.00
Equity Income	165	174	-0.69	4.37	5.00
Growth	357	379	-0.38	0.89	5.00
High Income	61	65	-0.12	6.52	5.00
GlobalGrthAcc	106	111	0.65	0.52	6.00
AIB Govett Trust Ltd					
4 Battle Bridge Lane, London SE1 2HR					
Tel: 0171 378 7979					
American General	352	373	2.40	0.00	5.00
American Strategy	240	257	-0.67	0.00	5.50
Asia Pac	55	58	0.18	1.09	5.00
Balanced Exempt	180	186	0.00	1.70	3.00
Cash	10	10	0.00	5.75	0.50
Core & Sat Ex	175	178	1.36	2.57 X	0.00
Corporate Bond	86	89	-0.19	6.08	3.25
European General	457	484	5.20	0.00	5.00
European Strategy	192	205	2.02	0.00	5.50
FTSE Mid 250 Index	115	123	0.48	1.89	5.50
Geared UK Index	27	29	0.52	5.75	5.50
Global Strategy	48	51	0.00	0.00	5.50
Greater China	142	152	-0.74	0.00	5.50
International Growth	193	206	1.43	0.11	5.50
Japan General	98	104	0.90	0.00	5.00
Latin American	89	96	-0.35	0.00	5.50
Monthly Income	46	49	0.08	7.98 X	5.50
Pacific Strategy	83	89	-0.08	0.00	5.50
UK Bear	4	4	-0.04	5.25	5.50
UK Equity General	432	459	5.10	0.00	5.00
UK EquitySafeguard	112	120	0.25	2.02 X	5.50
UK Index	19	20	0.20	5.25	5.50
UK Safeguard	141	150	0.47	0.00	5.50
UK Smaller Cos	98	105	0.14	0.50	5.50
US Bear	4	4	-0.01	3.50	5.50
US Equity Safeguard	96	102	0.01	0.00	5.50
US Index	27	29	0.39	4.00	5.25
AXA Equity & Law Unit Trust Managers					
AXA Equity & Law Hse,					
Corporation St.; Coventry CV1 1GD					
Tel: 01203 553231					
Balanced Acc	83	88	0.64	2.10	6.00
Balanced Inc	75	80	0.59	2.10	6.00
British Excell	132	141	0.80	2.06	6.00
BritishFndmtlsAcc	171	182	1.20	4.14	6.00
BritishFndmtlsInc	108	115	0.90	4.14	6.00
Europe	615	655	7.90	0.43	6.00
General Acc	970	1030	7.00	2.05	5.00
General Inc	787	836	5.70	2.06	5.00
Gilts&Fixed Int	99	104	-0.30	5.69	5.50
GiltsFixedIntAcc	243	257	-0.80	5.69	5.50
Global Opps	137	146	1.70	0.21	6.00
Higher Inc Acc	1274	1355	0.00	4.10	6.00
Higher Inc Inc	645	686	0.00	4.10	6.00
Japan	32	34	0.56	0.00	6.00
North America	506	538	9.30	0.00	6.00
Pacific Basin	243	258	2.10	3.72	6.00

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld	Init. Chrg %
Korea	23	26	0.52	0.00	5.25
Portfolio Acc	394	419	4.10	1.80	5.00
Portfolio Inc	203	216	2.00	1.80	5.00
Select Managers	107	114	0.40	1.00	5.00
UK Growth	157	167	1.40	1.20 X	5.00
UK Growth & Inc	96	97	0.93	2.20 X	0.00
UK Smaller Cos	158	171	0.30	1.00	5.00
Charity Fund					
OverseasGwthEx	87	88	1.10	0.10	0.00
Britannia Fund Managers Ltd					
AmericanGwthAcc	168	175	2.73	0.00	4.00
AmericanGwthInc	165	172	2.68	0.00	4.00
BalancedGwthAcc	251	262	2.43	0.50	4.00
BalancedGwthInc	212	221	2.04	0.50	4.00
EurpnGrowthAcc	285	297	2.68	0.00	4.00
EurpnGrowthInc	278	291	2.60	0.00	4.00
Gilt & Fixed Int	113	117	0.23	6.95 X	3.50
Gilt&FixedIntAcc	144	149	0.29	6.95	3.50
Higher Yield Acc	134	140	1.55	3.24	4.00
Higher Yield Inc	80	84	1.53	3.24 X	4.00
Intl Specl Opps Inc	236	246	-0.93	0.00 X	4.00
IntlSpeclOppsAcc	236	246	-0.93	0.00	4.00
Japan	39	40	0.27	0.00	4.00
Japan Acc	39	40	0.27	0.00	4.00
Managed Portfolio	68	70	-0.26	1.30	4.00
ManagedPtfloAcc	71	74	-0.27	1.30	4.00
Pacific Growth	85	88	0.05	0.92	4.00
PacificGrowthAcc	85	89	0.05	0.92	4.00
Smaller Cos	218	227	-0.67	0.04	4.00
Smaller Cos Acc	248	259	-0.76	0.04	4.00
UK General	141	147	-0.64	2.28 X	4.00
UK General Acc	159	165	-0.72	2.28	4.00
CIS Unit Managers Ltd					
Environ	259	272	0.80	1.16 X	5.00
UK Growth	315	331	2.90	1.75	5.00
UK Income	213	223	1.30	3.10	5.00
Canada Life Unit Trust Mgrs Ltd					
Balanced	72	77	0.39	0.00	5.25
Bond	196	206	0.10	0.00	5.00
European	152	161	1.40	0.00 X	5.25
Far East	144	154	0.70	0.00 X	5.25
General Acc	634	672	6.20	0.00	6.00
General Dist	318	337	3.10	0.00	6.00
Gilt & Fixed Int	45	47	-0.11	0.00	6.00
Growth	382	407	3.80	0.00	5.25
High Income	313	334	1.50	0.00	5.25
Income Acc	605	641	3.30	0.00	6.00
Income Dist	177	188	1.00	0.00	6.00
Intl Growth	269	287	2.50	0.00	5.25
Japanese Growth	28	29	0.19	0.00	5.25
North American	400	424	5.70	0.00	5.25
UK Smaller Cos	311	332	-1.10	0.00 X	5.25
MetroEurGwthPlus	266	283	3.03	0.00	6.00
MetroFundoftheAmer	97	103	1.32	0.00	6.00
MetroHighYieldBond	55	57	0.07	0.00 X	3.50
MetroHighYldBndAcc	63	65	0.07	0.00 X	3.50
MetroPortfolio	108	115	0.80	0.00 X	6.00

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld	Init. Chrg %
ManagedExtraInc	109	113	0.18	5.87 X	3.00
Natural Resources	55	58	0.26	0.92	4.00
Portfolio Inc	112	117	0.90	2.45	4.00
Portfolio Acc	113	118	0.90	2.45	4.00
Special Sits	296	310	2.10	1.17	4.00
UK Emerg Cos	148	155	-0.34	1.10	4.00
US Smaller Cos	208	218	2.15	0.00 X	4.00
Hill Samuel Exempt Umbrella Trust					
European Acc	367	383	2.20	1.05	3.25
Japan Acc	32	33	0.27	0.00	3.25
North Amer Acc	415	432	4.80	0.45	3.25
Pacific Acc	41	43	-0.07	3.43	3.25
Portfolio Acc	113	118	0.90	2.45	4.00

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld	Init. Chrg %
Gilt&FxdIntIncAcc	236	238	-0.50	5.30	0.00
Gold & General	36	38	0.70	0.52 X	5.00
Gold&GenAcc	43	46	0.80	0.52 X	5.00
High Interest	25	25	-0.01	7.27 X	0.00
Income	45	48	0.20	3.83 X	5.00
Income Acc	209	220	0.90	3.83 X	5.00
Index Tracker Acc	52	52	0.13	3.59	0.00
Index Tracker Inc	52	52	0.13	3.59	0.00
Intl Growth	105	111	1.40	0.66	5.00
Intl Growth Acc	187	198	2.50	0.65	5.00
Intl Income Acc	243	257	2.30	3.64	5.00
Intl Income	145	153	1.40	3.64	5.00
Japan	23	25	0.50	0.00	5.00
Japan Acc	25	26	0.60	0.00	5.00

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld	Init. Chrg %
UK Equity Acc	450	471	4.60	1.88	3.25
UKSmlrCosAcc	193	206	-0.60	1.93	3.25
INVESCO Fund Managers Ltd					
Amer Smaller Cos	208	217	2.00	0.00 X	3.00
American Growth	91	94	1.34	0.00	3.00
AmerSmlrCosAcc	211	219	1.90	0.00 X	3.00
European Growth	467	487	6.50	0.00	3.00
Eurpn Growth Acc	484	505	6.80	0.00	3.00
Eurpn Smaller Cos	83	86	0.86	0.00	3.00
French Growth	164	170	2.30	0.37	3.00
FrenchGrowthAcc	177	184	2.40	0.37	3.00
Gilt&Fixed Int	30	31	0.06	7.14 X	3.00
GiltEmgMktsAcc	78	82	0.83	0.04 X	3.00
GiltEmgMktsDist	77	81	0.81	0.04 X	3.00

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld	Init. Chrg %
Japan Smaller Cos	86	91	2.40	0.00	5.00
JapanSmlrCosAcc	87	91	2.40	0.00	5.00
Managed Growth	33	33	0.20	1.18	0.00
Managed Income	39	39	0.17	3.87 X	0.00
Pension Exempt	1506	1544	4.80	2.78	2.00
Recovery	63	66	0.20	2.49 X	5.00
Recovery Acc	113	119	0.30	2.49 X	5.00
Smaller Cos	80	85	-0.30	1.82	5.00
Smaller Cos Acc	173	183	-0.50	1.82	5.00
Sth East Asia	201	213	-0.60	2.82	5.00
SthEastAsiaAcc	273	289	-0.80	2.82	5.00
Trustee	58	61	0.20	4.08	5.00
Trustee Acc	268	283	1.00	4.08	5.00
UK Equity	90	96	0.30	3.38 X	5.00

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld	Init. Chrg %
Tel: 0171 867 8777, Dealing: 0171 528 6228					
***SIB Recognised Dublin OEIC Funds**					
American Growth	206	(Mid)	3.93	0.00	4.50
Asiac	70	(Mid)	0.20	0.00	4.50
Corporate Income	108	(Mid)	0.30	6.19 X	4.50
Deutschemark Res	99	(Mid)	0.31	4.05 X	0.00
Europe	276	(Mid)	3.38	0.00	4.50
Football Fund	80	(Mid)	0.16	0.00	4.50
Global Bond	92	(Mid)	0.32	6.89	4.00

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld	Init. Chrg %
PFS UKIndexTracking	189	189	0.32	1.59	0.00
Wesleyan					
Growth	162	170	0.00	1.58	4.00
Whittingdale Unit Trust Mgmt Ltd					
Challenger	108	113	0.93	1.48	2.25
Gilt Growth	93	94	-0.06	0.00	1.50
Gilt Income	53	54	0.00	5.70 X	1.50
ShortDatedGilt	133	135	0.01	0.00	1.00
Sterling Bond	53	54	-0.02	5.90	1.50
USShrtDtdGovtBnd	83	84	0.02	0.00	1.00
Woolwich Unit Trust Mgrs Ltd					
Corp Bond Acc	58	58	-0.10	5.50	0.00
Corporate Bond	52	52	-0.10	5.50	0.00
Intl Managed	79	83	0.42	1.45	5.00
UK StockMarket	148	157	0.60	1.82	5.00

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صكنا من الاهل

Now BP quits Russian oil sell-off

BY TERRY MACALISTER

RUSSIAN PLANS to raise desperately-needed cash by selling off 75 per cent of the state-owned oil group Rosneft received another blow yesterday when BP pulled out of the running.

The decision by the favourite bidder, following Shell's withdrawal last week, threatens to scupper a sale already hit by low oil prices and financial market turmoil. Other foreign companies, or even Russian ones like Surgutneftegaz, could still come up with the $1.6bn (£1bn) asking price for Rosneft, but most analysts believe this is unlikely.

Russian government officials were quoted by the local news agency ITAR-Tass as saying the sale might have to be put off until later in the year when the economic environment might have improved.

The BP decision could not only postpone the sale of Rosneft, but could also put back Russian hopes of selling stakes in other oil and gas companies, such as Gazprom.

The British oil major said: "We will commit ourself to our existing Russian assets." These chiefly consist of its 10 per cent holding in another Russian oil company, Sidanko, where it has seats on the board.

BP paid what was thought a high price of $571m to buy into Sidanko in November. The British company needs to reverse declining oil production before developing exciting gas prospects in eastern Siberia.

Alan Marshall, energy analyst with Robert Fleming, says the decision has no negative implications for BP. "This is a sensible decision by BP. In theory it leaves the way open for someone to come in and scoop the pool with Rosneft, but it seems highly unlikely."

The decision to pull back from Rosneft was not unexpected. Sidanko revealed on Friday that it would not partner BP in any Rosneft purchase because it did not have the funds.

Shell pulled out of the bidding after its Russian partner, Gazprom, made it clear that it could not afford to contribute funds to any proposed buyout of Rosneft.

But the likely exit of significant foreign participation is a severe setback for the government and its financial adviser, Dresdner Kleinwort Benson.

Rosneft attracted no sealed bids when it was put up for sale with an initial price tag of $2.3bn earlier this year. But the government attracted praise for dealing quickly with that setback.

It accepted Dresdner's advice and lowered the price to $1.6bn. But even this could be too high: Rosneft has two subsidiaries with interesting acreage on Sakhalin island in the Pacific and in eastern Siberia, but the rest of its assets are deemed of little worth.

So far US oil majors such as Exxon have shown no interest in Rosneft. Arco is one of the few American groups to take a serious interest in the oil industry in Russia.

Tesco cuts the cost of travel insurance

TESCO'S personal finance business yesterday launched into the travel insurance market with a new policy which it claimed was less than half the price of some of its rivals, writes Andrew Verity.

The supermarket group said Tesco Travel Insurance, which is now on sale at 550 stores in the UK, was up to 50 per cent cheaper than travel insurance offered by travel companies.

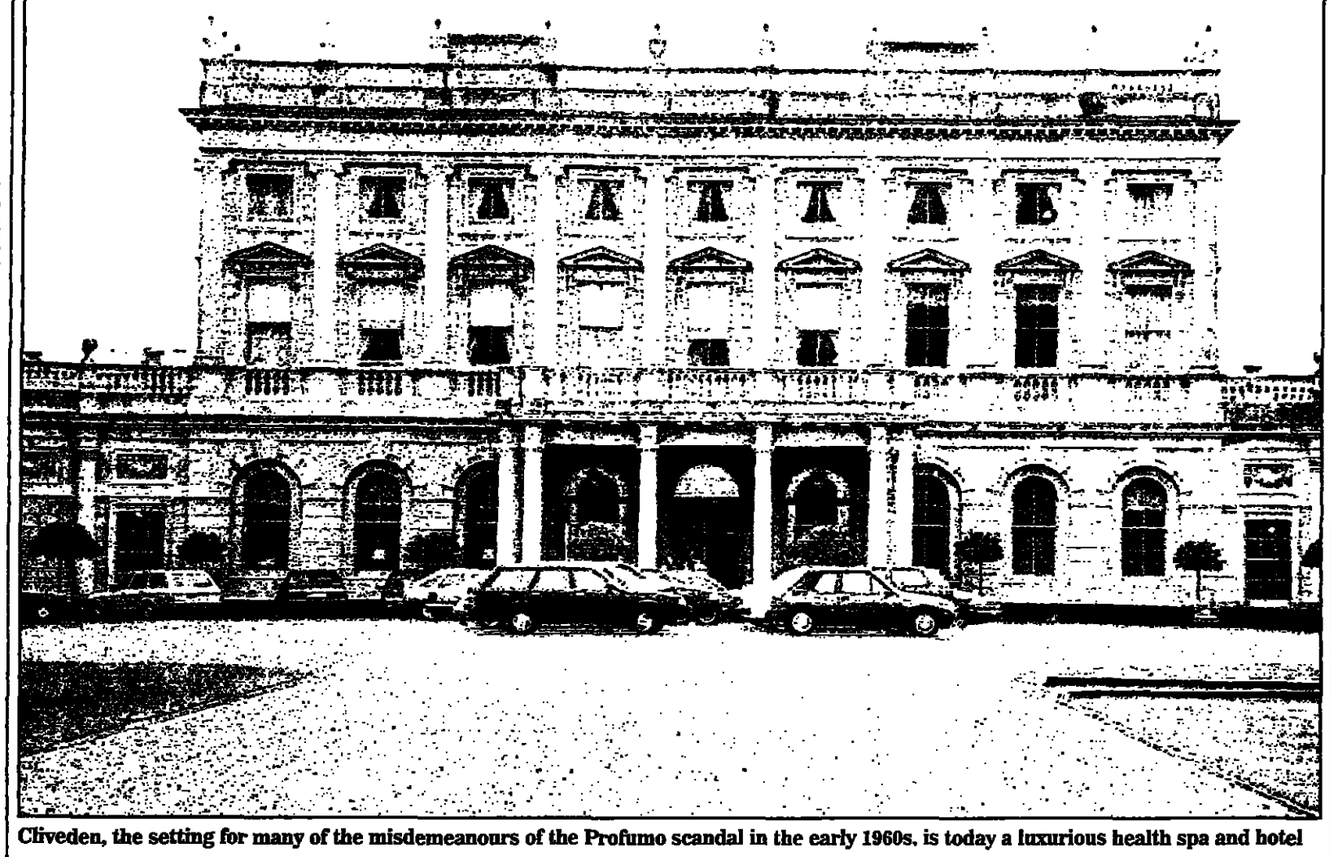
Andy Dewhirst, the marketing director, said: "We believe customers should think twice about their insurance cover and shop around for competitive quotes before signing on the dotted line."

Some travel companies and tour operators, which between them take more than 70 per cent of the travel insurance market, have been accused by rival insurers of offering consumers a poor deal.

A family of four insuring itself with Tesco for 15 days would pay £64.53 for a policy which also covers personal possessions. That compares with £146 from Sunworld or £129.50 for Thomson, according to figures compiled by Tesco.

However, other direct insurers – such as Columbus, Worldwide Travel or Bradford & Bingley – offer prices closer to Tesco's levels.

Tesco claims its travel policy has been tailored to allow customers to be charged by the day rather than suffer a hefty increase in premiums when holidays extend beyond two weeks.



Cliveden, the setting for many of the misdemeanours of the Profumo scandal in the early 1960s, is today a luxurious health spa and hotel

Gates poised to share in Cliveden

BILL GATES (left) looks set to grab a slice of English history after Cliveden, owner of the country house hotel of that name, recommended its sale to a group of investors which includes the Microsoft chairman.

Cliveden is famed for its part in the Profumo scandal of the 1960s. The company urged shareholders to accept a £42.8m bid from Destination Europe after it said it had ended talks with rival bidder Goldman Sachs.

Mr Gates, who is worth over $51bn (£31bn), has a 10 per cent holding in Destination Europe.

The takeover will give him and his partners a share in a high-profile property portfolio including the vast Cliveden house and 375-acre estate on the Thames west of London. The estate, in Berkshire, gained notoriety in the 1960s as the house where the Minister for War, John Profumo, met Christine Keeler and sparked the Cold War scandal.

Cliveden also owns the Royal Crescent Hotel in Bath, Somerset, and the Cliveden Town House in London.

Cliveden shares dipped 3.5p to 93.5p yesterday.

Bonanza for estate agent's high-fliers

STAFF AT Savills, the upmarket estate agent, shared a bumper £14.6m bonus last year, with two high-flyers enjoying a reward of £500,000 each, as a buoyant housing market led to a leap in the company's profits, writes Francesco Guerrera.

However, the company warned yesterday that the times of soaring house prices may be coming to an end, with house inflation expected to moderate over the next few years as the economy slows down.

Profits at Savills, which specialises in luxury properties, grew 49 per cent to £11.9m in the year to April, with turnover up 32 per cent to £72.1m.

The jump in profits led to a 15 per cent increase in the annual bonus for Savills' 870 employees, who are expected to pocket an average of £17,000 each on top of their basic salary.

The bonus is loosely based on profits, but it is also calculated on the amount of business estate agents bring in. Two of Savills' best-performing agents are set to get around £500,000.

Aubrey Adams, managing director, refused to name the two high-earners but said: "There are clearly one or two people who are going to get a bigger bonus, but there are quite a number of staff with bonuses in the six figure area."

He said a profit-related bonus was an effective way of keeping wage costs down in the event of a downturn in business.

Bespak turnover and profits rise

DELAYS IN implementing the switch from ozone-eating CFC to new environmentally friendly HFA and increased competition, especially in the US, is hurting Bespak, the UK business best known for making inhalers for asthma sufferers, writes Clifford German.

But it will come good in the next two years, according to Peter Chambre, chief executive. Meanwhile Tenax, the US business which makes throwaway kits for keyhole surgery, is emerging leaner and fitter from extensive restructuring, and US profits were up two-thirds to £2m.

In the UK, sales of dispensers rose 25 per cent to £49m, including a 42 per cent leap in sales of dry powder inhalers. Group turnover was up 11 per cent to £86m and profits rose 25 per cent to £13.8m in the year to 1 May, while earnings per share rose 35 per cent thanks to a reduced tax charge.

Most of Bespak's sales are long-term contracts to produce pumps and dispensers to the specification of the pharmaceutical companies that make the medication, but the company is beefing up the development of its own delivery systems. Capital investment topped £19m and a further £25m will be spent over the next two years. The shares rose 5p to 1,022.5p.

Crisis for home insurers will push up premiums

BY ANDREW VERITY

HOME-OWNERS will be hit by a substantial rise in the cost of home insurance because insurers are facing their worst year since the beginning of the decade, according to a new report on the troubled sector.

Over £600m in claims for damages from January storms and Easter floods will make 1998 the least profitable year for insurers since 1991, according to the report on the sector by the actuaries Bacon & Woodrow.

B&W predicts premiums will have to rise by around 6 per cent just to allow insurers to go on making a profit, adding over £10 to the cost of the average buildings and contents policy.

Nigel Munns, one of the report's authors, said: "What we are seeing is that the small profits that we saw in 1996 and 1997 have been more than wiped out by the losses in 1998.

"1998 will be a bad year. Recent years have seen the illusion of profitability in the absence of major weather events, but premiums have fallen to inadequate levels. Premiums are going up and the effect of the losses will result in more price movements."

The report said estimates of damage from the Easter floods had ranged between £200m and £1.2bn. However, the most likely figure was close to £400m. This was in addition to the £200m of damage caused by the January storms.

The scale of the claims will fuel speculation that further consolidation of the insurance market is inevitable as small players find it increasingly tough to compete.

Insurers are being squeezed by big claims in the midst of an overcrowded market. This year, they will spend 16 per cent more on claims and expenses than they receive in premiums.

Surprisingly, home insurance has proved relatively immune to price competition because customers usually buy it from a mortgage lender and stay with the same company. This allows insurers to raise their premiums without the danger that customers might abandon them for another insurer.

New entrants, notwithstanding their record of shaking up the car insurance market, have failed to lure customers away. Direct Line and Churchill, two direct providers of home insurance, have made little impact on the market.

The report's authors attacked some companies for failing to make a realistic assessment of the risks they underwrite.

Ed Plowman, co-author of the report, said customers in parts of the Midlands affected by the flood had been unfairly made to pay big increases in premiums. While losses amounted to £400m, floods on this scale occurred only once every 150 years.

At the same time there was a danger that insurers were overlooking big risks such as the possibility of a coastal flood.

"We are building up a picture of what is potentially a huge event which is certainly underestimated in the insurance market," Mr Plowman said.

Harveys weathers slowdown in sales

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

HARVEYS, the furnishings chain that has bought the Cantors and Kingsbury stores, said it had experienced a slowdown in sales but has shrugged off the woes that have ravaged rivals such as MFI, Carpetright and DFS Furniture.

Harveys' same-store sales, excluding new openings, were [illegible] per cent higher on current trading, compared with an 8.4 per cent rise in the year to April.

Sir Harry Solomon, chairman, said the retail market was "challenging", but he remained confident. Harveys is seeking shareholder approval to buy back 10 per cent of its shares. It had cash balances of £23.8m at the end of the year to April, for which it reported a sharp rise in pre-tax profits from £905,000 to £12.6m. The figures were boosted by inclusion of a six-month contribution from the Kingsbury chain bought for £52m in October.

The sales fall at Kingsbury has been reversed, the company said, and the integration of the business is at an advanced stage. Textiles have been introduced into 46 stores. Group market share has risen from 4.4 per cent to 6.2 per cent.

Rob Templeman, managing director of Harveys, said that in the year to April textiles accounted for around 25 per cent of Harveys Furnishing's total sales. "I intend in this coming year to push that up to about 35 per cent as we inject textiles into the Kingsbury stores."

Group sales rose by 61 per cent to £244.9m. The dividend was increased by 50 per cent to 9p per share. The shares, which hit 343.5p in February, closed at 231.5p, up 0.5p on the day.

Card Clear forced to justify sackings

BY ANDREW VERITY

CARD CLEAR, the AIM-listed credit-card fraud prevention company, yesterday confirmed it would call an extraordinary general meeting to explain the sudden departure last month of its two founding directors.

The company was forced to do so after more than 10 per cent of shareholders formed an action group to press for a fuller explanation. Brian Raven, the chief executive, and Oliver Cooke, the finance director, were forced to resign on 9 June. Card Clear's board said they had "misrepresented to the board the nature of a payment".

The departures prompted a rush to sell Card Clear shares and wiped 20 per cent off the company's market capitalisation of more than £100m.

Nigel Whittaker, a former director of Kingfisher, stepped up to become caretaker chairman. He has been a non-executive chairman since September.

Some shareholders want an explanation of the departures before the annual meeting next May. The EGM is likely to take place in mid-August.

The group, led by former business development director Clive Bradley, will call for Mr Raven to be reinstated to the board. Mr Bradley claimed that his departure "devalued the company". Mr Raven and Mr Cooke had been with Card Clear since it was formed in 1991.

In a statement, Card Clear said: "The board wishes shareholders to understand that the decision to accept the resignations of Brian Raven and Oliver Cooke was only taken after the most careful consideration of the facts and the best interests of the company."

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES 2.915%

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
694	422	**Allied Domecq**	558	x-7.8	4.4	14.5	1080
486	295	Bulmer(H.P.)	350	1.0	5.4	17.9	1136
54	13	BurnStew Dst	15	x-0.5	-	4.5	4652
772	540	**Diageo**	740	28.8	2.5	31.5	
976	755	Glenmorangie	880	0.0	2.0	20.0	2799
100	86	HghldDistillers	98	0.0		-	1259
268	157	Matthew Clark	192	8.0	8.5	6.7	1158

BANKS -0.367%

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
1388	715	**Abbey Nat**	1057	-13.0	3.6	18.2	2121
936	477	AIB	919	21.0		22.6	
1007	550	**Alliance Leic**	788	-7.0	3.3	17.8	2233
1996	1204	**Barclays**	1727	-8.0	2.7	23.2	1004
1324	685	Bk of Ireland	1315	x22.5	-	21.9	
898	399	**Bk of Scotl**	880	-8.0	1.9	18.8	3950
982	577	**Halifax**	765	-9.0	2.8	17.8	3333
2370	1303	**HSBC (75P)**	1545	-12.0	4.0	12.3	5933
2259	1208	**HSBC (HK$10)**	1480	-8.0	4.2	11.8	5929
635	570	Leopold J	625	0.0	4.1	24.1	2380
1118	622	**Lloyds TSB Gp**	883	1.0	2.5	19.8	6395
1244	768	**Natwest Bk**	1118	-1.0	3.6	25.0	1802
750	449	Northern Rock	516	-1.0		27.4	
70	40	Rea Bros	59	0.0	2.1	11.9	3666
1131	581	**Ryl Bk Scot**	1007	x-5.0	2.8	18.2	5218
1084	483	**Standchartd**	691	12.0	3.3	12.8	1441
438	313	Wintrust	430	0.0	4.1	19.3	3589
398	288	**Woolwich**	325	-3.0	3.7	20.8	3377

BREWERIES PUBS & REST -2.36%

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
1178	724	**Bass**	1104	x-16.0	3.5	25.8	1005
12	2	Belgo Gp	12	0.0	-	191.7	
258	141	Belhaven	219	x0.0	3.5	12.1	
198	133	Burtonwood	185	x0.0	4.3	13.3	1139
159	123	Century Inns	130	-0.5	7.2	8.6	
163	110	City Ctr Res	138	-3.0	2.5	20.5	1104
720	288	**Compass**	641	-22.0	1.2	41.3	4653
343	260	Eldridge P	311	x-1.5	2.5	14.8	4870
385	229	Enterprise Inns	342	-15.0	2.9	18.8	4777
553	412	Flr Smth&Tnr	553	x0.0	2.6	17.6	2163
538	310	Greenalls Gp	520	0.0	4.1	13.7	1238
770	610	Greene King	719	x-1.0	3.2	12.4	1240
358	245	Chez Gerard	331	-2.5	1.3	26.7	1610
282	214	Hardys & H	242	x0.0	6.1	10.4	1248
2775	1625	Holt (J)	2063	0.0	4.1	9.7	2305
76	56	Inn Business	67	0.0	3.5	9.8	6809
1000	365	Luminar Gp	904	x3.5	1.0	46.6	
339	279	Mansfield	298	x0.0	3.4	11.2	1326
361	295	Marston T	297	0.0	3.8	12.2	1329
530	403	Morland	448	x0.0	3.7	10.9	1347
384	228	Old Eng Pubs	296	-4.0	1.3	20.7	
357	229	Oriental Rest	294	6.0	1.5	22.4	
950	617	Pizza Express	857	-1.5	0.5	42.6	2991
393	298	Ramsden's (H)	313	0.0	2.0	25.8	6056
389	155	Regent Inns	192	0.0	2.4	15.8	1174
991	568	**Scot&New B**	782	-28.0	3.5	18.8	1421
238	104	SFI GP	196	0.0	0.5	41.6	
		Slug & Lettuce Gp					5796
131	70	Ushers Trowbdg Gp	114	x-6.0	3.7	11.8	
358	223	Vaux Gp	314	-2.0	4.5	13.7	4779
342	273	Wetherspn JD	278	-15.0	0.9	32.0	6236
1142	686	**Whitbread**	938	x-30.0	3.5	16.8	1498
599	430	Wolv & Dudley	518	-7.5	4.7	11.8	1506
559	348	Yates BrosWineLdg	454	-5.5	1.0	24.1	
828	638	Young & Co's	828	x0.0	2.4	28.8	3307
683	538	Young & Co's	673	x0.0	3.0	21.8	3308

BUILDING/CONSTRUCTION -2.17%

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
59	16	AAF Indus	40	-0.5	-	54.9	1566
375	200	Abbey	310	0.0		33.2	
480	328	Allen	458	x1.0	3.0	15.9	1699
218	114	AMEC	174	-2.0	3.6	10.5	1071
875	355	Amey	750	-20.0	1.8	24.1	2370
260	109	Andrews Sks	198	7.5	1.9	19.7	1720
387	143	Ashtead	235	-2.5	1.0	29.3	3572
49	29	Aranacre Grp	36	0.0	5.2	6.8	
46	27	Bardi	40	0.0	4.4	10.7	

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
305	228	Evans Halshw	254	-4.0	8.4	5.4	3676
401	275	Finelist Gp	296	-3.0	3.4	12.9	1323
28	20	Gardiner Grp	26	0.0	4.8	11.8	
83	61	Glenchewton	63	-0.5	4.0	9.1	
136	90	Gowrings	114	-0.5	3.9	10.7	
405	258	Headlam Gp	360	-5.0	2.4	18.6	2279
21	11	HR Owen	16	-0.5	6.2	10.8	
172	120	Holders Tech	120	0.0	7.0	8.1	
705	185	Ideal Hdware	245	10.0	4.5	7.4	6000
402	78	Ilon Gp	82	-0.5	9.1	5.4	1787
300	137	Inchcape	194	0.0	6.1	129.3	7533
193	40	ISA Intl	52	-2.0	8.0	5.0	5447
584	264	Kwik-Fit	478	-3.0	1.7	21.4	1287
614	373	Lex Service	503	4.0	4.3	20.0	1302
243	193	Libo Supplies	193	-1.5	5.8	9.0	6516
123	97	Lookers	105	0.0	9.8	-	
545	351	Menzies J	545	6.0	3.5	-	1334
3	2	Middlesex	3	x0.0	-	-	1670
364	230	Norbain	277	-13.0	4.2	10.1	2685
261	116	Northamber	215	0.0	2.1	12.9	2694
111	69	Novara	83	0.0	8.7	18.3	
175	113	Oliver Ashworth	173	6.0	3.6	13.3	
348	193	Partco Gp	214	7.5	5.1	10.1	1320
327	225	Pendragon	225	-1.0	5.9	10.6	5907
255	168	Perry	195	0.0	6.1	7.8	2757
580	272	Premier Farnell	296	-2.5	5.4	11.7	1209
165	116	Quicks Grp	134	0.0	7.1	9.3	
350	140	REA Hldgs	155	0.0	2.6	32.3	
3	1	Reece	3	0.0	-	-	
86	30	Ring	31	0.0	-	12.4	
23	4	Ronson	5	0.0	-		
5	2	Ross Grp	4	0.0	-	21.3	
113	83	Ryland Gp	95	-2.5	5.8	6.1	6103
48	14	Salipe	17	x0.0	.		
290	207	Sanderson Brml	208	1.0	3.3	10.2	2892
34	28	SEP Indl	29	0.0	5.6	14.6	
66	40	Sedgemoor	48	x0.0	5.2	13.7	
274	227	Sytner	253	0.0		8.9	
311	131	Time Prod	135	x0.0	11.6	6.3	
678	510	Trifast	599	0.0	2.2	21.7	1218
379	133	TrustMotor Grp	230	0.0	1.4	47.9	
440	310	UMECO	386	x0.0	2.3	17.7	2069
124	75	Utd O'seas Gp	92	-3.0	1.6	23.5	2024
316	238	Vardy (Reg)	244	-1.0	4.2	11.2	4677
800	590	WF Elect	726	-6.0	2.7	23.3	3269
52	26	Wilshaw	44	0.5	2.8	-	6708
193	112	Wyko	142	-1.0	2.9	15.7	
186	135	Young (H)	145	x-2.5	4.1	10.3	

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS 0.503%

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
445	243	Antofagasta	245	-10.0	3.6	23	3438
488	396	Ascot	297	-1.5	4.9	9.8	1905
676	491	**BAT Indl**	536	-1.8	4.5	19.8	
811	144	**BTR**	174	0.3	6.8	8.8	1082
280	167	Cookson	225	-3.0	4.1	14.0	1299
278	198	Cosalt	236	x-3.0	6.2	9.4	1918
613	365	DCC	555	0.0	-	18.4	
389	244	Gallaher	357	-7.0	8.7	10.1	
183	114	Grampian	115	x-9.0	7.8	14.1	5448
517	361	Imperial Tob	484	x1.0	5.6	11.9	
412	226	Lonrho	398	-2.0	9.4	248.3	1038
95	71	Lonrho Africa	71	-0.5	-	-	2926
180	142	McLeod Russel	153	x0.0	5.8	11.1	7333
624	392	Powell Duff	525	x1.5	6.0	16.8	1378
188	101	Staveley	106	x2.0	10.7	21.9	6188
100	53	Strategem	89	0.0	5.6	22.8	
385	268	**Tomkins**	347	2.8	6.8	14.2	1482
393	242	TT Grp	298	0.0	3.7	11.4	5452
570	350	Wardle Strys	480	-12.5	5.5	14.7	3233
382	296	Wassall	298	0.0	2.6	42.5	4649
136	68	Whitecroft	71	2.5	8.8	-	3266

ELECTRICITY 0.037%

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
623	152	**Br Energy**	524	x-8.0	3.5	19.7	4514
438	288	**National Grid**	485	x7.5	3.7	28.2	4443
687	420	**Natl Power**	560	x3.5	8.0	28.8	6025
900	585	**PowerGen**	857	x12.8	4.2	-	6823
598	412	Scott Hydro	565	18.5	4.3	16.8	6027

ENGINEERING VEHICLES 0.207%

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
157	97	Adwest	128	0.0	6.1	11.2	3499
701	565	Avon Rubber	598	-27.5	3.6	21.0	1090
194	98	Britax	154	-5.0	2.5	18.6	1095
345	250	Bostrom	253	-2.5	3.6	29.4	3883
396	248	Dennis Gp	356	x0.0	3.4	15.2	
414	244	First Tech	392	-2.5	1.3	30.8	2193
840	458	**GKN**	846	6.8	1.7	21.8	1828
607	357	Henlys Grp	532	-20.0	3.9	18.2	
502	274	Laird	290	2.5	4.9	7.7	1292
282	181	**LucasVarity**	243	1.8	2.8	25.8	1938
245	141	Mayflower	200	-9.0	1.7	19.6	2929
162	86	Syltone	123	1.5	7.0	10.2	4535
118	63	UPF Gp	100	0.0	6.0	7.3	2529
52	26	Wilshaw	44	0.5	2.8	-	

EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES 0.183%

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
12	6	AngAm Plat (£)	8	0.7	...	...	
47	21	Arcon Intl	23	0.0	-	..	3510
253	118	Billiton	139	-0.3	-	.	2423
23	10	De Beers (£)	12	0.5			
283	118	Elandsrand	189	0.0			
393	203	Eng China Clay	213	-2.5	7.6	[illegible]	1196
41	15	Greenwich Res	20	-1.5	-	-	
14	7	Minorco (£)	7	0.3	-	..	5657
189	76	Randfontein	145	-7.0		-	
133	62	Reunion Mining	69	-2.0	-	-	
361	80	RJB Mining	135	0.0	18.6	1.7	3860
1078	655	**Rio Tinto**	788	3.5	4.5	13.4	6889
457	382	Watts Blake Bn	406	0.0	5.4	12.1	1492
18	9	Western Deep (£)	12	0.0	..	-	

FOOD PRODUCERS -1.482%

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
302	203	Acatos&Hutch	216	x-1.0	-	-	3440
46	22	Albert Fisher	24	-0.5	17.4	6.1	2136
117	46	Anglo East	45	-1.5	8.8	4.7	1569
608	412	**Assc Brit Fds**	585	6.0	3.6	19.6	1082
315	193	Banks Syd C	202	2.0	7.1	7.1	1641
513	390	Barr A G	512	0.0	4.2	9.9	1650
238	143	Bertam Hldgs	148	x0.0	3.5	11.8	
360	209	Booker	246	0.0	12.2	13.3	1113
1078	472	Brake Bros	953	5.0	1.5	36.0	
993	548	**Cadbury-Schw**	875	1.8	1.8	28.5	1016
328	105	Carr's Milling	129	2.0	11.2	4.2	1820
346	235	Cranswick	335	-1.0	4.4	13.2	1933
371	234	Dairy Crest Grp	355	x1.0	3.8	13.8	
69	30	Daniels (S)	47	x-1.0	-	14.5	
546	320	Devro	324	1.5	3.7	13.7	3249
189	150	Express Dairies	158	-1.0	-	12.3	
143	99	Finlay J	117	0.0	4.1	10.7	1214
611	383	Geest	584	-3.5	2.1	23.6	4086
22	9	Global Gp	12	0.0	7.6	-	2206
380	270	Greencore	343	x8.0	-	18.1	2407
241	117	Hazlewood	232	-5.0	3.9	17.9	2278
215	142	Hillsdown	172	-2.0	6.9	10.9	1262
415	345	Linton Park	405	0.0	6.9	7.4	2021
124	86	Matthews B	123	1.5	4.4	20.2	1330
235	193	Nichols Vto	207	-1.0	4.8	10.8	2681
301	147	Nthrn Foods	208	-2.5	4.1	21.6	1363
417	181	PIC Intl Grp	214	3.0	5.6	-	3630
194	101	Perkins Fd	144	0.0	3.5	11.8	2756
245	188	Rob Wiseman	199	-9.0	2.5	13.4	1634
116	58	Rowe Evans	66	x0.0	6.7	5.2	2871
585	399	Tate & Lyle	498	x-2.0	3.4	22.0	4665
739	481	Unigate	650	x-0.5	4.2	14.0	1474
712	383	**Unilever**	673	-21.8	1.8	43.4	5983
299	187	Utd Biscuits	239	-1.5	-	41.1	1061
63	30	WT Foods	57	x-1.0	3.3	18.8	

GAS DISTRIBUTION 4.16%

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
58	43	Carto Grp	56	-0.6	1.4	17.9	
121	71	**Centrica**	108	8.6	-	-	1818
385	247	**BG**	388	19.3	2.8	-	7274
145	94	Intl Energy Grp	144	0.0	3.3	13.5	

HEALTH CARE 0.336%

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
541	253	Alliance UniChem	533	2.0	2.3	23.6	

MAIN MOVERS

RISES

	PRICE(P)	CHG(P)	%CHG
Scottish Power	620.00	66.00	11.91
Securicor	560.00	35.00	6.67
MAN Group	342.00	21.00	6.54
Smith(David S.)	215.00	12.00	5.91
Sema	789.00	41.00	5.48
Racal Elec	421.50	21.50	5.38
BG	388.00	19.25	5.34
United Ass	586.50	29.00	5.20
Great Port	244.00	12.00	5.17
Telewest	186.00	8.00	4.49

FALLS

	PRICE(P)	CHG(P)	%CHG
Wetherspoon	277.50	-15.00	-5.13
Berkeley	585.00	-30.50	-4.96
Ledup Ins	316.50	-16.00	-4.81
Mayflower Grp	200.00	-9.00	-4.31
Rexam	268.50	-10.50	-3.70
Rugby Group	104.50	-4.00	-3.69
Scottish&Newc	782.00	-28.00	-3.46
Compass Grp	641.00	-22.00	-3.32
House Of Fraser	162.50	-5.50	-3.27
Britax Intl	154.00	-5.00	-3.14

MARKET LEADERS

TOP 20 VOLUMES at 5pm

Stock	Vol.	Stock	Vol.	Stock	Vol.	Stock	Vol.
Queens Moat	32.71m	Smithkline Beech	14.77m	Bbse Group	10.42m	Glynwed Intl	8.43m
Centrica	27.02m	Shell Transp	14.49m	Gen Elec	10.18m	Racal Electronic	8.41m
Scottish Power	23.31m	Tesco	13.01m	Brit Petroleum	9.65m		
Corp Services	22.18m	Tomkins	11.56m	BTR	9.38m		
Tarmac	17.40m	Brit Telecom	11.21m	Unilever	9.07m		
Billiton	15.57m	Lloyds TSB	11.08m	Rentokil	8.94m		

FTSE 100 INDEX

HOUR BY HOUR

Open	5990.3		11:00	5996.7	Up 6.4	15:00	5997.1	Up 6.8
9:00	6020.8	Up 30.5	12:00	6001.7	Up 11.4	16:00	5995.4	Up 5.1
10:00	6035.2	Up 44.9	13:00	5998.4	Up 8.1	Close	6003.4	Up 13.1
			14:00	6005.1	Up 14.8			

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
223	182	Flem Growth	211	-1.0	2.1	-	2907
133	98	Flem Technlgy	130	2.0		-	4871
281	217	Flms 1st	275	x0.0	1.8	-	3680
202	153	Flms Wrld Plus	161	x0.0	0.2	-	4172
648	471	Flem American	628	4.5	0.4	-	1444
82	35	Flem Asia	43	0.3		-	
20	5	Flem Asia Wts	10	0.3		-	
107	31	Flem Chinese	38	0.0	.	-	6602
40	11	Flem Chin Wts	18	0.0		-	6603
508	335	Flem Claverhse	484	3.5	1.5	-	2143
700	429	Flem Cnt Eur	662	x4.0	0.5	-	2443
158	99	Flmg Emg Mkts	108	1.5	-	-	3902
68	62	Flem Inc Prf	65	0.0		-	
197	147	Flem Inc Uts	190	0.0	4.0	-	5248
63	35	Flem Indian	37	0.5			2406
30	4	Flem Ind Wt	8	0.5		.	2425
207	121	Flem Japan	145	3.0	-	..	1145
51	1	Flem Jap Wt	6	0.0		-	4924
478	389	Flem Merc	419	x3.5	3.0	-	2580
103	71	Flem NatRes IT	73	1.3	0.3	-	3750
434	328	Flem O'seas	419	5.0	-	-	1478
201	138	Flem Smlr Co	187	0.0	2.1	.	6666
507	372	Flem USDiscov	464	-0.5	0.3	.	2141
54	47	Flem Wld Zero	52	0.0			5468
143	104	Flem Wld Uts	128	0.0	4.5	-	
92	58	Flem Worldwd	75	-0.5	7.7	-	

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
		MCIT	495	0.0	-	-	
227	152	M Currie Europn	221	2.0	0.5	.	7061
195	141	M Currie Mogans	176	-0.5	3.4	-	2618
166	86	M Currie Pacic	98	1.0	2.4	-	2565
165	118	M Currie Sm Co	150	x-1.0	2.7	-	2873
437	308	Merchants	422	4.0	4.6	-	1336
178	121	Mercry Euro Pr	172	2.5	1.9	-	1192
1307	918	Mercry Keystn	1235	6.5	2.3	-	1284
92	57	Mercry Wldmng	61	1.8	1.7	-	1108
81	65	Millbrs Inv	77	0.0	8.0	-	7455
830	637	Monks	612	9.5	1.5	-	1345
78	36	M & G Inc	74	0.0			
545	395	Ntb Am SmCo	530	-3.5		.	6818
150	94	Old Mutual SA	112	2.3	0.6	-	2782
105	33	Pacific Assets	37	0.3	1.3		1370
53	30	Pacific Horizon	25	0.0	1.8	-	3465
308	266	Pantheon Intl	295	1.0	-	-	6848
135	72	Prpt Euro	128	0.0		-	6125
157	106	Prpt Inc&Gwth	142	x2.5	3.6	-	
425	290	Prpt UK SmCo	394	0.0	2.2	..	7167
159	117	Prolific Income	145	0.0	3.7	-	3473
370	258	RIT Cap Ptnr	367	x7.5	0.7	-	7911
95	34	Schrdr AsiaPac	40	0.8	1.6	-	4805
166	136	Schrdr Inc Gwth	157	x0.5	4.5	-	4065
76	43	Schroder Japan	52	0.5		-	2790
135	105	SchroderSplitFd	127	0.0	8.5	-	

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
131	72	F&C EmgMkt	78	0.5	.		6767
303	145	F&C Entprse	293	0.0	1.7		2111
211	155	F&C Inv	207	3.5	1.4		1219
176	95	F&C Pac	110	1.5	2.1	.	1226
543	336	F&C Euro	535	6.5	0.3	-	2113
183	132	F&C PEP	174	0.5	3.3	-	6226
227	170	F&C Smlr	213	x0.0	1.8	-	1543
180	137	F&C US Sm	174	3.0		.	6703
175	92	F&C IxGrIT	119	1.8	3.9	-	1842
178	134	Fram 1000 SC	162	0.0	1.9	-	5999

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
180	130	Schroder UK	165	x2.5	2.7	-	1665
191	147	SchroderVent Intl	181	0.0	-	.	
233	171	Scot Amer	230	1.8	2.9	-	1424
141	104	Scot Eastn	136	1.8	1.9	.	1416
387	280	Scot Invst	386	x4.0	1.9	.	1418
399	284	Scot Mortg	391	7.0	1.7		7262
106	94	Scot Natl Tr	105	0.0	10.1	-	
153	112	Scot Value	148	x0.5	1.7	.	1724
123	80	Scudder LatAm	90	x1.0	0.7		3498
2755	1988	Second Allnce	2706	17.5	2.5		1425

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
46	22	INVESCO Tokyo	27	0.0			4382
128	101	InvTst of InvTsts	125	0.0			3848
194	141	Invstrs Capital	179	1.5	3.8		4022
197	147	I&S ISIS	184	0.0			2364
668	590	Klein Dvlp Fnd	649	4.5	4.7		4221
119	74	Klein Emg Mkt	86	0.0		.	5222
179	165	Klein Endow Pcy	177	0.0		.	6034
167	153	KleinSelEndwPcy	159	0.0	.	.	1742
43	34	Knox D Arcy	40	0.0		17.2	
1289	1001	Law Deb	1253	5.5	2.8	.	2415
158	115	LSG Recov IT	151	x0.5	2.1	.	3810
178	128	Lloyds Sm Co	170	0.0	3.2		5151
215	167	Ldn & St Lawr	209	0.0	3.8	.	2456
429	297	Lowland	414	-0.5	3.6		2470
367	270	Majedie Inv	362	0.0	2.4	-	2542

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
36	25	Burndene	32	0.5	8.2	7.8	5829
188	76	Capital Corp	80	0.0	8.0	10.1	6301
105	49	Cinedon	94	-3.5	2.7	18.6	
109	70	Clubhaus	91	-0.5	.	17.2	
305	144	EMIC	176	21.5	0.5		
318	207	Eurocamp	243	0.0	6.0	11.2	6033
110	67	Eurodisney	109	2.5			5261
147	121	Euro Leisure	126	-4.0	4.2	5.5	
175	80	First Choice Hl	165	0.0	2.2	44.6	1368
438	235	First Leisure	334	-4.0	3.4	185.6	7200
160	111	Friendly Htls	147	x-3.5	5.0	5.2	1582
860	483	Games Wrkshp	568	-12.5	2.0	25.1	2937
1217	708	**Granada Grp**	1184	x-8.0	1.7	28.8	1235
196	118	Gremlin Grp	165	-0.5		12.4	
52	37	Hi-Tec	44	0.0	5.1	9.8	

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Red Yld	Code
		INDEX-LINKED				
199.52	186.35	Tsy I/L 2.5 01	199.52	0.00	3.46	3166
197.94	182.17	Tsy I/L 2.5 03	197.94	0.00	3.19	3167
127.98	117.88	Tsy I/L 4.375 04	127.98	0.00	2.99	6478
207.47	192.81	Tsy I/L 2 06	207.47	0.00	2.86	3159
199.35	173.74	Tsy I/L 2.5 09	199.35	0.00	2.76	3169
204.43	180.30	Tsy I/L 2.5 11	204.43	0.00	2.73	3163
177.00	148.79	Tsy I/L 2.5 13	177.00	0.00	2.66	3140
190.72	152.68	Tsy I/L 2.5 20	190.72	0.00	2.60	3179
163.08	127.00	Tsy I/L 2.5 24	163.08	0.00	2.56	4993
161.02	124.67	Tsy I/L 4.125 30	161.02	0.00	2.52	
		PERPETUAL				
44.75	34.93	Con 2.5% Perp	43.53	-0.13	5.74	1896
44.00	34.13	Tsy 2.5% Perp	42.84	-0.13	5.84	301
53.13	41.14	Tsy 3% Perp	51.56	-0.19	5.82	302
83.80	64.95	Con 3.5% Perp	80.41	-0.45	4.35	1906
63.61	49.13	War 3.5% Perp	61.94	-0.08	5.65	3230
69.38	54.22	Con 4% Perp	67.55	-0.25	5.97	1075
		SHORTS				
109.72	101.70	Tsy 13.5% 98	101.69	-0.02	7.45	324
106.26	101.54	Exch 12% 98	101.53	-0.01	7.49	2087
103.39	100.97	Tsy 9.5% 99	100.97	-0.02	7.51	321
108.14	103.26	Exch 12.25% 99	103.25	-0.01	7.45	7083
105.80	102.51	Tsy 10.5% 99	102.47	-0.04	7.47	345
99.36	97.90	Tsy 6% 99	98.69	-0.04	7.29	6714
106.79	100.92	Con 10.25% 99	101.78	-0.07	7.26	1908
		MEDIUMS				
105.01	102.80	Con 9% 00	102.81	-0.06	7.14	310
115.54	110.97	Tsy 13% 00	110.94	-0.08	7.08	312

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Red Yld	Code
104.29	102.21	Tsy 8% 00	102.49	-0.07	6.88	3435
110.04	107.23	Tsy 10% 01	107.41	-0.10	6.87	3097
105.77	98.97	Tsy 14% 01	98.94	-0.00		355
102.73	99.12	Tsy 7% 01	101.06	-0.12	6.62	5287
103.59	99.21	Tsy 7% 02	101.84	-0.14	6.45	4901
110.90	110.50	Tsy 9.75% 02	111.57	-0.19	6.52	3096
108.99	103.76	Tsy 8% 03	107.13	-0.17	6.29	6607
118.29	113.47	Tsy 10% 03	116.09	-0.17	6.29	3094
114.84	110.97	Tsy 11.5% 04	111.13	-0.16	6.89	3151
93.40	86.05	Fund 3.5% 04	92.06	-0.31	5.04	2168
119.20	112.93	Con 9.5% 04	117.25	-0.23	6.14	1907
105.17	97.80	Tsy 6.75% 04	103.67	-0.21	6.01	6479
120.53	113.50	Con 9.5% 05	118.59	-0.26	6.10	6479
130.68	126.30	Tsy 12.5% 05	127.94	-0.33	6.28	3149
116.46	108.30	Tsy 8.5% 05	114.66	-0.24	6.01	3326
112.98	103.76	Tsy 7.75% 06	111.38	-0.24	5.96	2660
107.35	102.71	Tsy 8% 06	105.38	-0.22	6.51	3126
111.88	102.47	Tsy 7.5% 06	110.22	-0.25	5.91	4557
		Tsy 11.75% 07				3162
119.62	109.31	Tsy 8.5% 07	117.81	-0.28	5.92	3195
111.89	101.01	Tsy 7.25% 07	110.19	-0.27	5.82	7201
126.27	114.18	Tsy 9% 08	124.11	-0.30	5.81	5434
120.01	106.91	Tsy 8% 09	118.34	-0.31	5.75	3194
		LONGS				
106.25	92.19	Tsy 6.25% 10	104.59	-0.31	5.72	6171
131.51	116.16	Con 9% 11	129.19	-0.36	5.77	6068
133.13	116.81	Tsy 9% 12	130.81	-0.34	5.77	5145
101.03	87.08	Tsy 5.5% 12	99.44	-0.28	5.55	3106
124.85	108.30	Tsy 8% 13	122.66	-0.30	5.74	6771
120.53	105.27	Tsy 7.75% 15	118.38	0.34	5.78	3123
128.17	109.39	Tsy 8% 15	125.69	-0.34	5.66	3199
138.51	107.28	Tsy 8.75% 17	136.88	-0.37	5.65	5715
133.51	110.96	Tsy 8% 21	130.91	-0.45	5.59	

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
289	148	Holmes Place	248	-3.0		30.6	
410	260	Hornblock Grp	280	x-5.5	5.0	13.9	6500
200	140	Jarvis Hotels	168	-1.0	3.4	9.8	
570	340	Jurys Hotel	545	0.0	-	18.4	4445
38	21	Junick	33	x0.5	3.1	17.5	7031
490	230	**Ladbroke**	319	x-8.5	2.8	24.7	1942
29	15	Leeds Sporting	16	0.0	-	-	8151
498	141	London Clubs	160	x-1.0	5.4	11.8	2329
244	168	MacDonald Hotels	210	x0.0	3.0	14.3	
171	124	Man Utd	163	0.0	1.2	21.9	6030
621	333	Mill & Copth	528	-11.0	2.0	20.4	5824
134	73	Newcastle Utd	75	0.0	1.8	10.8	2015
300	123	Nthrn Leisure	160	0.0	3.1	26.9	4960
61	32	PGA Euro Tour	43	x0.0	.	60.7	4685
44	11	Queens Moat	38	-0.8		4.6	1385
32	20	Queensboro	26	0.0	1.9	10.0	1806
16	4	Rage Soft	12	0.5	-	-	
494	286	**Rank**	326	1.8	6.8	18.7	1388
51	36	Regal Hotel	42	0.5	3.8	8.0	5690
85	50	Ryan Hotels	73	0.0	-	12.8	3587
1900	1158	Savoy Hotel	1650	0.0	1.6	26.1	1413
166	126	ScotHighlndsHotels	163	0.0	2.9	13.4	
268	173	Sinclair (W)	183	5.0	8.2	9.8	3277
144	91	Stakis	126	1.0	2.7	19.0	1440
314	236	Stanley Lss	282	-7.0	1.9	24.1	3536
548	278	Sunderland	390	0.0	1.5	8.8	
2	1	Sunleigh	1	0.0	-	-	
251	121	Thistle Htls	220	2.5	2.4	17.7	1315
211	170	Thomson Travel	179	-1.5		-	1199
101	60	Tottenham	68	0.5	1.8	9.3	3086
379	133	Trust Motor	230	0.0	1.4	47.9	1651
213	106	Vardon	175	0.0	1.7	34.2	6213
226	63	VCI	84	0.0	15.6	4.5	2731
413	266	Wembley	394	-5.0	1.0	33.1	2172

LIFE ASSURANCE 0.61%

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
1364	778	Britannic	1170	15.0	3.6	1.8	1121
803	396	**Legal&Gen**	688	8.0	2.4	17.0	1036
628	397	London & Man	485	3.0	6.4	19.9	1308
958	289	**Norwich Un**	432	-1.0	-	15.7	3388
894	495	**Prudential**	882	8.5	2.4	18.8	7481
383	130	St Jms Pl Cap	323	-4.0	0.6	36.6	6641
680	319	**SunLife & Prov**	574	5.0	2.5	66.7	
631	423	Utd Assrnce	587	29.0	4.5	13.7	1395

MEDIA 1.484%

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
445	324	Abbot Mead	413	-0.5	2.0	31.3	1532
180	108	Adscene	149	1.0	7.2	15.6	6474
101	58	Aegis Group	97	0.3	0.7	25.6	6169
195	120	Atlantic Telecom	151	4.0			6269
495	292	Avesco	494	x16.5	1.8	15.8	3506
240	185	Barcom Index	230	0.0	5.5	25.6	5310
3	1	Brinkdale	1	0.0	-	-	
398	268	Border TV	322	0.0	2.7	19.1	3406
515	405	Bristol Utd	491	x-2.0	4.3	12.0	1732
311	99	Brit Allcroft	248	0.0	1.0	36.9	
490	329	**BSkyB**	492	5.0	1.7	26.8	3382
748	448	Capital Radio	713	2.5	2.5	18.5	6694
678	408	**Carlton Comms**	563	x13.5	2.8	16.9	2142
403	101	Character Gp	345	x-15.5	1.7	22.8	
63	40	Chime Comms	63	0.0	3.8	16.4	2583
788	552	Chrysalis	785	0.0	0.4	-	1852
30	17	Columbus Grp	27	0.3	2.7	21.8	
137	86	Cordiant	134	x0.0	-	-	1409
185	135	Creative Publ	170	x0.0	-	303.6	
247	130	Dialog Corp	150	1.5			
3400	1650	Dly Mail&Gen	2923	x63.0	1.1	30.6	3973
308	195	Dorling Kindr	211	0.0	2.7	34.6	6231
505	311	Dudley Jenkins	445	-7.5	1.5	36.5	
1301	747	EMAP	1255	x-20.0	1.5	27.6	1186
938	418	**EMI**	618	-1.0	3.1	48.1	1178
2413	1495	Euromoney	2400	0.0	2.8	27.1	6680
701	468	Flextech	553	-19.5	-	-	2145
255	196	Game	197	-8.5		-	3280
245	156	GWR Group	220	x-3.5	1.9	24.9	7165
298	223	Haynes	275	0.0	5.1	12.6	2278
545	285	HIT Entertainmt	545	0.0	0.2	170.3	
280	180	Hodder Hdlne	266	0.0	3.4	16.8	2393

PROPERTY -0.105%

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
117	70	Allied Ldn	93	-1.0	5.5	8.7	1547
195	138	Asda Prop	175	-2.0	2.1	21.9	1592
181	135	Ashtenne Hldgs	166	0.0	3.8	11.7	
279	216	Benchmark Gp	253	-3.0	.	29.7	2553
280	224	Bilton	262	x0.0	5.3	16.7	1665
178	149	Birkby	167	8.0	6.8	9.9	2130
64	39	Brne End Prop	54	-1.0	2.8	53.5	2355
323	235	Bradford Prop	238	x-0.5	4.8	15.6	2693
891	635	**Br Land**	618	x-1.0	2.1	29.0	1128
255	199	Brixton	229	-3.0	5.1	17.4	1760
132	99	Burford	105	0.0	2.7	22.8	6853
460	382	Cap Shopg Ctr	404	9.0	2.9	26.4	1333
318	230	Cap&Regnl	266	0.0	1.6	17.3	3712
356	264	Cardiff Prop	353	x0.0	1.1	25.7	
19	9	Carlisle Gp	15	0.0		36.3	2965
15	7	Cathay Intl	8	0.0		80.0	6388
419	314	Chelsfield	315	0.0	1.3	38.8	1078
688	590	Chesterfield	600	x0.0	2.8	34.3	1847
149	118	CLS Hldgs	139	-0.5	5.2	16.0	
264	153	Compco	263	0.0	2.1	17.8	4324
1710	1510	Daejan	1710	0.0	1.8	16.7	1960
26	10	Dares	11	0.0		-	
127	75	Debenham Tew	105	-1.5	4.2	10.6	6387
233	171	Dencora	232	0.0	2.6	16.3	1977
598	498	Derwent Val	562	-2.5	1.5	31.1	3658
355	223	Develpmt Sec	303	0.0	1.2	7.2	1865
261	161	Edge Props	213	-4.0	-	55.9	5980
243	215	Eskmuir Prop	215	0.0		-	
177	137	Evans Leeds	152	x-3.5	3.1	18.9	2072
405	134	Freeport Lss	364	0.0		64.4	
569	461	Frogmore	469	-13.0	5.5	12.9	2117
370	368	Grainger Tst	319	x-2.5	3.0	-	2221
201	139	Grantchester	166	-2.5	1.1	50.3	1532
296	203	Gt Portland	244	x12.0	4.6	26.0	1236
253	153	Greycoat	219	x1.0	0.9	20.6	2338
519	271	**Guardian Royal**	372	5.5	3.5	5.4	2918
152	101	Hambro Ctry	114	-1.5	3.3	7.3	5733
538	430	Hammerson	454	-6.5	3.3	38.7	2260
35	22	Hampton Tst	25	0.0	.	50.0	2968
893	495	Helical Bar	685	x-2.5	1.7	12.0	5801
50	36	Hemingway	46	-0.3	1.7	14.3	3669
348	185	Jermyn Inv	348	2.5	2.2	55.2	4208
1174	820	**Land Secs**	827	x-1.8	3.8	25.2	1035
39	31	Lon & Assoc	32	x0.0	3.5	13.4	3542
142	99	Ldn Mer Sec	130	x0.0	5.1	3.9	2449
184	116	McKay Secs	141	0.0	5.1	18.4	4268
830	435	MEPC	528	3.5	3.6	40.0	1317
368	252	Milner Ests	306	-12.5	2.9	18.6	
246	158	Minerva	245	0.0	1.2	28.5	1555
1863	1430	Mntview Est	1750	x-12.5	1.4	10.3	
37	24	Moorfield	33	0.0	2.1	30.0	7362
169	135	Mucklow AJ	154	-2.0	5.8	16.7	1351
733	536	Peel	710	-5.0	1.5	70.5	2745
353	227	Pillar Prop	319	x-3.0	2.3	29.5	2431
333	238	Prop Ptnrshp	293	0.0	3.9	17.4	2801
30	21	Raglan Props	25	x-0.5	6.5	7.2	2817
42	25	Regalian	26	x-0.5	6.0	10.3	2635
303	150	Rugby Estates	170	-0.5	2.1	12.3	1698
73	56	Saville Gordon	64	-1.3	5.9	23.7	1412
149	104	Savills	140	1.5	4.2	8.2	7788
113	63	Scot Met	98	-0.5	4.0	33.2	1419
248	173	Shaftesbury	221	0.0	1.3	46.9	6856
415	308	Slough Ests	327	-7.0	1.9	20.8	1433
155	120	Smith James	135	0.0	5.8	17.5	1344
82	68	St Modwen	73	0.0	5.1	8.9	2833
130	81	TBI	126	x0.0	1.7	36.2	2556
204	177	Tops Estates	189	0.0	1.8	32.4	3672
118	83	Town Centre	95	0.0	5.1	11.3	3105
304	130	Trafford Pk	187	-1.0	2.7	21.0	3109
279	209	Warner Ests	262	0.0	6.2	13.8	7161
298	229	Warnford	263	0.0	2.7	16.1	2259
113	93	Wates City	94	0.0	-	43.6	3238
454	328	Workspace Grp	437	x0.0	4.9	13.9	

RETAILERS, FOOD -0.729%

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
222	138	**ASDA**	209	2.8	2.1	28.2	1661

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
1440	702	Serco Gp	1385	5.0	0.6	58.0	7502
200	140	Shanks McE	177	x0.0	3.0	19.9	7210
915	275	Sherwd Intl	908	0.0	0.7	38.1	2938
74	36	Simon Group	60	0.0		18.5	1430
66	33	Sketchley	36	x0.0	..	5.8	2953
321	125	Skillsgroup	288	5.5	1.5	40.0	1724
175	103	Stat-Plus	125	0.0	11.3	12.5	2954
145	55	Torex	133	-7.5	2.2	-	4738
120	48	Universal Salv	79	-1.5	8.2	20.3	4413
453	154	Vega Gp	403	2.5	1.7	29.2	5846
270	171	Warner Hwrd	178	-2.5	8.5	8.7	5913
500	246	Waste Recycling	470	2.0	0.7	43.1	1891
65	43	Waterman Ptnr	55	0.0	4.8	13.8	
831	339	**Williams**	387	4.0	4.4	18.9	1601
149	78	WSP Group	135	-0.5	2.6	18.5	

TELECOMMUNICATIONS 2.011%

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
816	369	**BT**	806	14.0	3.8	30.1	1912
813	431	**Cble & Wrless**	804	11.5	1.6	14.1	1815
636	207	C & W Comms	638	16.0		-	2105
1133	252	Energis	1058	-65.0		-	
299	78	Gen Cable	294	12.0	..	..	4118
435	23	Ionica	45	2.5			2413
748	201	**Orange**	788	31.8		...	4711
563	249	Securicor	560	35.0	0.4	45.5	2522
193	64	TeleWest	186	8.0	-	-	2398
898	298	**Vodafone**	885	x11.5	0.8	81.4	3577

TOBACCO -0.297%

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
676	491	**BAT Inds**	598	-1.0	4.5	19.8	1093
389	244	Gallaher	357	-7.0	6.7	10.1	2222
517	361	Impl Tob	484	x1.0	5.8	11.9	1271

TRANSPORT 1.647%

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
203	114	Amer Port Svs	188	0.0	1.4	22.1	4380
388	247	A B Ports	322	-1.0	3.5	16.3	1083
518	330	Arriva	373	0.0	4.5	10.3	
372	250	Aviologic	345	0.0		19.7	
394	131	Avis Eur	282	6.5	1.3	27.9	1996
732	440	**BAA**	653	x-1.0	2.6	24.7	7389
715	497	**Br Airways**	783	x14.0	3.0	15.7	6258
172	150	Br RegionalAirlines	164	0.0		-	3584
141	88	Clarkson H	103	0.0	4.9	11.7	1864
193	112	Clydeport	190	2.0	3.6	10.0	3785
466	301	Dart Gp	443	x0.0	2.1	19.6	4409
258	200	Dawsongroup	250	0.0	3.4	13.8	4489
89	44	Eurotunnel	67	-0.5		-	6894
451	186	FirstGroup	439	12.5	1.9	24.8	
150	119	Fisher J	130	0.0	3.3	8.0	2135
692	520	Forth Ports	638	-2.5	2.8	15.4	5332
776	432	Go-Ahead	773	31.5	1.4	23.8	1669
602	416	Goode Drml	501	0.0	2.6	16.2	2214
222	123	Hill Hire	185	x0.0	3.0	12.0	3652
100	67	Jacobs	84	0.0	3.4	36.3	2356
643	368	Mersey Docks	567	-2.0	3.2	20.2	1098
1119	447	Nat Express	1007	6.0	1.7	29.4	6536
203	127	NFC	165	1.0	4.0	330.0	4776
816	508	Ocean Grp	755	0.0	2.4	29.5	1366
122	93	Ocean Wilson	114	0.0	6.1		2705
954	685	**P & O**	846	20.8	4.9	19.2	1842
1532	678	**Railtrack**	1517	52.8	2.8	38.5	4811
408	183	Servisair	338	0.0	2.8	19.1	3171
1583	680	**Stagecoach**	1382	22.8	0.9	34.4	1886
628	543	Tibbett & B	600	0.0	3.6	14.6	3706
653	305	Trafficmaster	589	1.0	-	734.4	1593
458	251	Transport Dev	283	0.0	5.6	10.2	1464
93	40	Utd Carriers	40	0.0	11.7	6.9	1153

WATER 0.51%

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
975	700	Anglian	867	x4.0	5.6	20.8	4013
1588	1135	Bristol Water	1510	x0.0	4.7	9.3	5700
583	410	Dee Valley Wtr	485	x0.0	5.1	9.4	3825
335	248	East Surrey	290	x4.0	5.2	7.0	5726
1054	772	Hyder	971	x0.0	6.5	.	4019
775	575	Mid Kent Hldgs	720	x0.0	5.7	10.1	5726
1081	772	**Severn Trent**	1017	x2.8	5.1	238.5	4815
3675	2795	South Staffs	3593	0.0	3.7	13.7	5777
1022	755	South West	1017	x0.5	5.0	-	4017
1107	724	**Thames**	1089	1.0	4.5	59.4	4011

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
3710	1383	**Misys**	3525	125.8	0.5	85.4	5347
336	156	NATE Grp	362	-5.0	0.9	37.2	2395
65	33	Orbis	60	x0.0	3.3	24.6	7613
863	427	Parity	775	0.0	0.8	37.1	6288
366	109	Photo-Me	341	-16.5	2.0	40.6	6312
55	20	Proudfoot	42	-1.0		10.0	
780	267	PSD	520	0.0	2.0	20.0	1846
608	203	Quality Sftwre	480	2.5		23.8	6769
158	136	Quantica	140	-8.0			3368
193	109	Reed Exec	164	-1.5	2.3	8.7	6478
193	100	Reliance Sec	190	0.0	4.5	21.4	5692
454	288	**Rentokil Grp**	454	12.8	0.8	44.0	7770
292	136	Ricardo Grp	227	0.0	3.6	133.2	2942
403	158	RM	393	-5.0	0.6	62.5	3207
576	220	Robert Walters	322	-1.0	1.3	17.6	2493
510	260	Rotis & N	330	-2.5	2.1	22.8	1401
332	173	RPS Grp	320	5.0	1.8	27.1	6371
1805	665	Sage	1665	20.0	0.2	71.2	6601
135	90	Salvesen (C)	111	x0.0	9.2	33.5	1411
160	62	Sanderson B	140	x-0.5	4.4	31.6	7600
978	487	Select Appts	978	40.0	0.4	42.0	5695
795	390	Sema Gp	783	41.0	0.3	80.7	1815

RECENT ISSUES

Stock	Price	Chg(p)
Dimension Res	24.5	0.5
Eskmuir Prop	215.0	0.0
Game	196.5	-8.5
Guardian IT	565.0	0.0
Hartford	2.8	0.0
ICC Computers	226.5	-3.5
Inter-Alliance	402.5	-2.5
James R Knowles	82.5	3.0
JWE Telecom	224.0	-30.5
LLP	314.0	0.0
Marchpole	59.5	-4.0
Mills Equip Rental	11.8	0.0
Peel Hotels	125.0	-0.5
Quantica	139.5	-8.0
Salesure	83.5	0.0
Taylor&Francis	237.5	0.0

source: **Bloomberg**
www.bloomberg.com/uk

SHARE PRICE DATA

Prices are in sterling except where stated. Price reflects the official closing mid price. Sector movements are based on the FTSE-350. The yield is the latest twelve months' declared gross dividend as a percentage of the share price. The price earnings (P/E) ratio is the shareprice divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding extraordinary items but including exceptionals.
Other details: r Ex rights. x Ex dividend. a Ex-all. s Suspended. p Partly Paid. np Nil Paid. * AIM. Gilt Prices are Bloomberg Generics.
Source: **Bloomberg**

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صكنا من الاهل

Footsie defies the gathering gloom

FOOTSIE CONTINUES to defy the bears who forecast a summer of stock market discontent. For the *first time for a month* the index was above 6,000 points, scoring its fifth consecutive gain.

Telecoms and computers were again prominent. BT, for the first time, charged through 800p, gaining 14p to 805p.

Against a background of economic slowdown and a possible interest rate increase this week, the *market is surprisingly* buoyant.

However, some market men believe shares are merely reflecting progress made in other western markets. "It's quite a curmudgeonly market – it does not really want to go higher," said one broker.

Supporting this view is Footsie's tendency to close well below its best level of the day. Yesterday it was at one time 46.3 higher. It ended 13.1 up at 6,003.4. The index is now just over 100 points below its peak.

The Stock Exchange's link with *Deutsche Börse* could also have helped sentiment; it indicates an attempt to end Nasdaq's European ambitions by creating Europe's central market.

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

The mid cap index also made headway but the bottom seems to have dropped out of the shares of smaller companies. The small cap index once again gave ground, falling 3.7 to 2,594.9. In May it was *riding at a 2,792.73 peak.*

ScottishPower led Footsie, scoring a 66p gain to 620p as the market continued to throw off its blinkered view that it was merely an electricity group with a telecoms sideline. Excited talk that the generator's *telecoms operation could* be another Energis (floated from National Grid) is powering the shares.

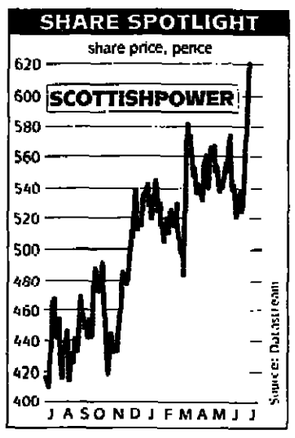
Orange, up 31p to 738p, and **Vodafone**, 11.5p to 834.5p, were other telephone groups in demand. **Racal Electronics**, following its deal with Colt Telecom, dialled a further 21.5p gain to 421.5p on talk it is in the running to win a London *Underground telephone deal.* **Securicor**, with a minority stake in **Cellnet**, was another to attract attention, up 35p to 560p. The cable duo, **Telewest**, up 8p to 186p, and **General Cable**, 12p to 293.5p, were others on the highway.

Among the computer high risers were **Misys**, 125p to 3,525p, and **Sema**, 41p to 789p.

But as hi-tech shares blossomed some of those in more traditional industries, such as brewing, wilted. **Scottish & Newcastle**, the nation's biggest brewer, fell 28p to 782p; **Bass** was flat at 1,104p, off 16p, and **Whitbread** lost 30p to 930p.

Worries about today's S&N trading statement appeared to be responsible for the unease. The figures are expected to be good *enough, say, £430m against £374m.* England's relatively early dismissal

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



from the World Cup is another inhibiting influence.

The market seemed to wake up to pub chain **JD Wetherspoon's** failure, because of its ban on TV sets, to enjoy any of the World Cup activity, lowering the shares 15p to 277.5p.

Marks & Spencer, down 9.5p to 537.5p, was ruffled by a modest CSFB downgrading. The investment house has trimmed from £1.09bn to £1.06bn. **Debenhams**, the *department store chain, fell 8p to* 301.5p. Worries that it will issue a profits warning have dragged the shares from around 400p in the past month. A trading statement due soon should be reasonably upbeat and not, as some suggest, disappointing.

BT Alex.Brown lifted a construction industry forecast. It raised its *expectations for AMEC* for this year from £60m to £63m and next from £70m to £73m.

Railtrack's decision to sell some London offices kept the shares on the express line, up 52p to a 1,517p peak. **British Airways**, drawing *comfort from the feeling that its deal* with American Airlines will eventually go through, rose a further 14p to 703p.

United Assurance was briskly traded, up 29p at 586.5p, and the commodities group **ED&F Man** rose 21p to 342p.

Coats Viyella, the struggling textile group, held at 75p as Baupost, a US investment group, declared a 3.6 per cent stake.

Two newcomers made firm debuts. **Sporting & Outdoor Media** moved from a 76p placing to *92.5p (after 97.5p). Policy Master,* an insurance technology group, went from a 150p placing to 204.5p.

Cliveden, the hotel group, fell 3.5p to 93.5p as Goldman Sachs abandoned takeover plans, leaving the way clear for a consortium involving computer tycoon Bill Gates. **Tinsley Robor**, the packaging group, collected its long-awaited bid, *218p a share, after the market* closed. The shares were 194p.

Ahead of figures, **Shield Diagnostic** rose 60p to 582.5p but **British Biotech**, the struggling drugs group, again suffered a wounding session, falling 3p to 30p; trading *was brisk with Seaq putting volume* at 6.3 million shares.

IMS, with interim results due soon, held at 106.5p. The telephone services group seems to have been ignored in the telecoms upsurge. It offers such services as automated call handling, voicemail and find-me-anywhere personal numbers.

SEAQ VOLUME: 893.1m
SEAQ TRADES: 67,734
GILTS INDEX: n/a

FIRESTONE DIAMONDS, a South African explorer and *miner, is on its way to AIM.* It is planning to raise £5m, selling shares at 114p through the stockbrokers IA Pritchard and Burrough Johnstone.

The AIM success of Petra Diamonds, floated at 30p and now 132.5p (after 153.5p), prompted Firestone to raise cash through the junior *market. It has already made* two private placings in this country. After the share sale directors will control around 60 per cent of the capital. The company already has a profitable diamond mining *operation as well as* exploration projects.

DUE TO arrive on the fringe Ofex market today is Coronation International Mining, with diamond and zinc *interests in West Africa.* Shares have been sold at 20p, providing a £5m market capitalisation. A property company called Coronation Trading has 37 per cent.

No need to run for cover this time

WITH THE economy apparently slipping into recession and the Monetary Policy Committee considering another interest rate hike later this week, should investors be *running* for cover?

Although the FTSE 100 index shrugged off those worries to edge above 6,000 again yesterday, some observers think investors should be seeking out defensive stocks. These *are the steady, cash-rich, worthy-but-*dull companies which will continue to perform when more cyclical businesses take a dive. Classic examples are supermarkets and utilities, because people still buy food and use electricity even in hard times.

There *is a historical precedent* for buying these shares. During the last recession, they held their value while manufacturers, leisure companies and highly geared glamour stocks such as advertising groups came a cropper.

This time, however, conditions are different. To begin with, there is not much of a consumer boom, as any investor in retail stocks will have realised. And levels of personal borrowing are much lower now than at the peak of the 1980s boom, so *higher interest rates will have less* effect on spending.

The other factor is that the stock market has already prepared for the worst. The leisure, general retailers and pubs sectors all now trade on p/e ratios lower than the market as a whole. But sectors with growth prospects independent of the economy, such as telecoms and support services – home to Britain's booming information technology companies – have soared to new peaks this year.

So, provided consumer spending does not fall off a cliff, some of the leisure, retailing and brewing stocks are beginning to look quite attractive. As always, investors should be selective and concentrate on companies with strong brands and proven management. But don't be tempted on to the defensive. You could be missing out on a few bargains.

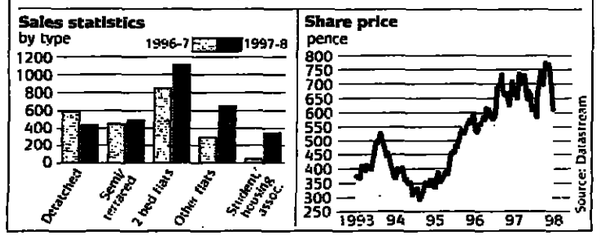
INVESTMENT

EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN

BERKELEY GROUP: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £725.9, share price: 585p (-30.5p)

Trading record	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Turnover (£m)	228.1	283.4	334.3	485.3	600.0
Pre-tax profits (£m)	39.5	37.6	43.4	75.1	110.3
Earnings per share (p)	31.4	30.2	33.3	49.3	60.6
Dividends per share (p)	6.5	7.2	8.1	9.1	10.3



London liability for Berkeley

BERKELEY used to be something of a favourite for many investors otherwise frightened by the house-building sector even during good times. The company benefited from having three-quarters of its activities focused on the South and South-east of the country when house prices were soaring.

But Berkeley's premium rating has been eroded of late and the shares plunged a further 30.5p to 585p yesterday. The group's London *focus is now seen as a liability,* with house prices falling faster in the capital than anywhere else.

The company remains optimistic, insisting it has interesting projects from Cardiff to Liverpool. An economic downturn might round the corner *but there will be a* "soft landing" for the new homes market, says Graham Roper, chairman.

He was unveiling results for the year to March which comfortably beat City expectations. Pre-tax profits rose 34 per cent to £100m, well ahead *of the £90m predicted at the time of* last October's £125m rights issue.

Turnover rose from £485m to £600m and the dividend has been raised 12.6 per cent to 10.25p. Completions increased from 2,222 to 3,056 units but average selling prices *were down from £218,000 to £193,000.*

Berkeley has moved away from its upmarket niche of detached houses on green-field sites. It now prides itself on city-centre conversions and developing contaminated or used land.

Merrill Lynch, the stockbroker, predicts that Berkeley will make pre-tax profits of £120m this year, putting the shares on a forward multiple of nine times. That is a fairly dismal rating but, given the sector and the London factor, it's fair. Hold.

Re-inventing John Menzies

AFTER 18 months as chief executive of John Menzies, the news and logistics business, no one can accuse David Mackay of inaction. Having signalled his intention to pull out of retailing, he has offloaded the Menzies retail chain to WH Smith for £68m and put a rocket under the woefully performing Early Learning Centre with a view to demerging or selling it.

His plan is to re-invent Menzies as a logistics and services business that undertakes prosaic functions like baggage handling in airports. This may be dull but, according to the City, it is worthy. After several years of dramatic under-performance *which saw the shares hit a low of* 351.5p in February, Menzies shares have risen steadily, improving by another 6p yesterday to close at 545p.

Mr Mackay is hoping Menzies' logistics business will match the size of its wholesale distribution division within seven years.

The slump to losses of £28.6m last year was due to heavy exceptional charges and the losses at ELC, which is now improving.

On Dresdner Kleinwort Benson's current-year profit forecasts of £38m, Menzies is trading on a forward rating of 12. That is a premium rating in a sector out of favour. But the shares are a decent hold as Menzies looks a good *management* story and a steady business in a difficult economic environment.

IN BRIEF

Blacks ends talks on Lillywhites

BLACKS LEISURE, the sports retailer, has ended talks that could have led to it taking a majority stake in Lillywhites, the sports group best known for its flagship store on London's Piccadilly *Circus. The talks had been taking* place with Jeronimo Martins, the Portuguese group which bought Lillywhites from Forte in 1995. Blacks Leisure shares closed 3p lower at 300.5p.

Budgens expansion

BUDGENS, the supermarket operator, is to open 20-40 more *stores on petrol forecourts this* year as part of its expansion programme. It will also open six new supermarkets and convert its eight Budgens Freshsave stores, which operated on a discount basis, to its standard Budgens format. Like-for-like sales in current trading are 2.3 per cent of the same period last year.

Oriental openings

ORIENTAL Restaurant Group, which runs City eateries such as Sri Thai and Imperial City, is to move into the £15-a-head market as it seeks to open two or three *new restaurants a year.* The company currently has seven restaurants and will open the Pacific Oriental at 1 Bishopsgate in September. The news came as Oriental reported a 30 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £1.8m. Sri *India was the only black spot* making a loss.

Disposable deal

THE PLASTIC container maker RPC yesterday paid £16m in cash for Gizeh, maker of disposable plastic cutlery with plants in France, Poland and Germany. Last year the three businesses made an operating profit of just over £2m.

Tinsley Robor bid

THE BOARD of Tinsley Robor, specialist supplier of CD packaging to Europe's music and video industries, yesterday *recommended a cash bid of 218p a* share (19 times last year's earnings) from IMPAC, a US-based maker of speciality packaging. TR's chairman, Shaun Lawson, and chief executive, Lee Newbon, will stay on and also join the IMPAC board. The bid values Tinsley Robor at £83.6m, an increase of 47 per cent on the value on 29 May, when TR *announced it had received an* approach from a different source, which alerted IMPAC's interest.

From burying BCCI to Scotland's bonny banks

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

FROM CORPORATE undertaker to boss of a bank seems quite a leap, but to do it at the tender age of 39 seems positively indecent.

Not that **Fred Goodwin** has actually been given the top job at Royal Bank of Scotland – yet. When I asked the present incumbent, **Dr George Mathewson**, yesterday whether young Fred could be regarded as his heir apparent, the Doctor replied sternly: "These appointments are made when they are made." Er, quite.

Fred made his name running the admin side of the liquidation of BCCI when he worked for Touche Ross (now Deloitte & Touche).

A spokesman for Deloitte & Touche was unstinting in his praise for Mr Goodwin yesterday, who he described as "a hell of a loss for us – because he was such a good partner in the firm."

BCCI was the biggest liquidation in history. The job was being led by high-profile insolvency specialists *like* **Brian Smouha** – *now working* in Washington as the auditor of the World Bank – and **Chris Morris**, the *eminence grise* of the accountancy profession, as even his friends describe him.

So Touche needed someone to *run the "back office" of the crashed* bank, says the spokesman. Even though BCCI was no longer taking in and lending money, the worldwide bureaucracy still needed to be wound down in an orderly fashion. Step forward, Mr Goodwin.

His good fortune continued in 1995 when Clydesdale Bank made him their boss. It gave the Glasgow-raised accountant a chance to get to know his fellow Scot, Dr Mathewson.

Apparently the two Scottish bank bosses "speak to each other all the *time", according to a source north* of the border. The Doctor had an initial chat with Fred, contacts grew – and eventually Fred decided to make the move to RBS, so the story goes.

Fred has been on secondment in Australia for the past few months, *but returned a week ago and will* start work at RBS's offices in Edinburgh within a month or so.

THERE'S BEEN a bit of movement in the telecoms sector recently, with two equity analysts going off to pas*tures new.* ***Robert Millington**, the* top-rated telecoms analyst at CSFB, formerly of BZW, who has been trying to move to Singapore for years, has at last got his wish. Mr Millington's desk in London has been filled by **Robert Mocatta**.

***Andrew Harrington**, another* highly-rated telecoms analyst, this time with Salomon Smith Barney, is leaving to help his brother set up a telecoms company of their own.

Rumour has it that Mr Harrington trousered a bonus of around $2m *(£1.2m) last year.*

That's nothing compared to **Jack Grubman**, Salomon's top telecoms analyst in New York, who pocketed a cool $10m for his performance in 1997. Keep buying those telecom stocks.

IF YOU were less than impressed by the performance of the man in black supervising England's World Cup defeat at the hands of Argentina last week, or would simply like to discuss the finer points of **Kim Milton Neilson's** *decision to send off David* Beckham, now's your chance: the referee's e-mail address, so I am told, is: kimn@datalog.dk.

Good luck. And remember – keep it clean ...

***ALASTAIR ROSS GOOBEY**, chief* executive of Hermes, the pension fund manager, enjoyed a reunion recently with his pals from Cambridge Footlights – 30 years on.

His fellow thespians in those salad days included Julie Covington, *the actress and singer, according to* this month's *Estates Gazette*.

The mag asked Mr Ross Goobey, who had just finished a video presentation to property bods, whatever had happened to his theatrical aspirations?

"*I knew entertaining was not* what I would be best at, so I went into the City. When I saw the rerun of the video, it confirmed it," he replied.

WILLIAMS, the former conglomerate which is now focused on fire pro*tection and security systems, has* promoted **David Fielding** to its board as group finance director.

Mr Fielding has been the chief financial officer of the company since 1 April this year: the position meant that he became the company's *first ever finance director.*

COMPANY RESULTS

Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	Ex-Dividend
Adam & Harvey (F)	40.61m (46.81m)	4.24m (5.17m)	54.3p (67.4p)	27p (27p)	05/09/98	07/08/98
Berkely Group (F)	599.6m (485.3m)	100.3m (75.1m)	60.6p (49.3p)	10.25p (9.1p)	01/09/98	27/07/98
Bespak (F)	86.07m (77.45m)	13.82m (11.03m)	39.7p (29.5p)	13.7p (12.3p)	06/10/98	13/07/98
Birkby (F)	50.44m (57.93m)	11.01m (8.12m)	16.8p (14.0p)	9.0p (8.5p)	09/10/98	07/09/98
Birse Group (F)	*444.3m (409.9m)*	*5.162m (2.017m)*	*2.1p (1.1p)*	*0.8p (0.5p)*	*05/11/98*	*28/09/98*
Budgens (F)	366.4m (339.7m)	10.48m (9.08m)	4.8p (4.3p)	1.6p (1.4p)	06/10/98	tba
Delancey Estates (F)	3.90m (7.76m)	0.70m (1.24m)	2.6p (5.1p)	1.6p (1.55p)	tba	tba
Greenwich Resources (I)	– (–)	-0.16m (-0.07m)	-0.1p (0.1p)	– (–)	–	–
Helicon Publishing(F)	2.67m (–)	-86,000 (–)	-1.9p (–)	– (–)	–	–
JWE Telecom (F)	13.36m (20.91m)	1.51m (835,761)	5.7p (3.0p)	nil (–)	–	–
Kalamazoo (F)	65.71m (77.78m)	-2.329m (3.682m)	-3.0p (6.8p)	nil (4.25p)	–	–
Low & Bonar (I)	191.5m (215.2m)	22.30m (21.34m)	15.92p (15.13p)	4.50p (4.25p)	05/10/98	07/09/98
Mentmore Abbey (F)	31.4m (20.9m)	5.10m (1.75m)	4.81p (2.20p)	1.05p (0.9p)	01/010/98	13/07/98
John Menzies (F)	1.540bn (1.420bn)	-28.6m (30.6m)	-71.4p (33.6p)	15.2p (–)	30/10/98	28/09/98
Oriental Restaurant (F)	8.42m (7.03m)	1.805m (1.392m)	13.1p (11.8p)	3.6p (3.0p)	07/09/98	10/08/98
Precoat Intnl (F)	56.20m (992,000)	3.728m (3.286m)	17.07p (15.36p)	6.6p (–)	01/10/98	13/07/98
Real Time Control (F)	15.68m (12.56m)	3.163m (2.547m)	30.6p (25.5p)	7.5p (6.0p)	02/10/98	07/09/98
RPC Group (F)	240.5m (129.3m)	15.47m (10.49m)	13.6p (11.5p)	4.65p (–)	14/09/98	13/07/98
Savills (F)	72.12m (54.81m)	11.31m (7.62m)	17.1p (12.5p)	4.75p (3.5p)	11/09/98	03/08/98
Tom Hoskins (F)	3.38m (1.95m)	0.17m (-0.31m)	2.01p (-4.46p)	nil (–)	–	–

(F) - Final (I) Interim † EPS is pre-exceptionals *Dividend to be paid as a FID

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Country	Sterling Spot	1 month	3 month	Dollar Spot	1 month	3 month	D-Mark Spot
				0.6109	0.6120	0.6141	0.3367
UK	1.0000			1.6123	1.6125	1.6130	0.8886
Australia	2.6389	2.6349	2.6264	12.767	12.765	12.760	7.0369
Austria	20.897	20.857	20.778	37.430	37.365	37.240	20.631
Belgium	61.265	61.053	60.638	1.4722	1.4712	1.4696	0.8114
Canada	2.4096	2.4038	2.3929	6.9150	6.9060	6.8880	3.8114
Denmark	11.318	11.284	11.216	1.0897	1.0912	1.0939	0.8417
ECU	1.5020	1.4975	1.4885	5.5160	5.5061	5.4882	3.0403
Finland	9.0286	8.9967	8.9364	6.0824	6.0709	6.0497	3.3524
France	9.956	9.920	9.851	1.8143	1.8109	1.8046	1.0000
Germany	2.9696	2.9589	2.9384	303.49	305.29	308.64	167.28
Greece	496.75	498.84	502.56	7.7476	7.7609	7.7746	4.2703
Hong Kong	12.681	12.681	12.659	1.3879	1.3870	1.3859	0.7650
Ireland	1.1793	1.1781	1.1749	787.5	786.4	784.1	985.23
Italy	2925.8	2919.0	2905.0	138.73	138.09	136.89	76.465
Japan	227.07	225.63	222.90	4.1710	4.2067	4.2800	2.3989
Malaysia	6.8270	6.8736	6.9690	8.9520			4.9341
Mexico	14.653			2.0454	2.0415	2.0343	1.1274
Netherlands	3.3479	3.3358	3.3124	0.5211	1.9179	1.9162	0.2872
New Zealand	3.1413	3.1338	3.1201	7.7105	7.7065	7.7025	4.2498
Norway	12.621	12.592	12.542	185.78	185.57	185.13	102.40
Portugal	304.08	303.22	301.44	3.7508	3.7536	3.7566	2.0674
Saudi Arabia	6.1393	6.1332	6.1168	1.6920	1.6945	1.7005	0.9326
Singapore	2.7695	2.7668	2.7689	6.1753	6.2653	6.4090	3.4037
South Africa	10.1076	10.2373	10.4358	154.03	153.86	153.52	84.898
Spain	252.12	251.40	249.98	8.0850	8.0757	8.0563	4.4563
Sweden	13.234	13.195	13.118	1.5271	1.5222	1.5135	0.8417
Switzerland	2.4996	2.4872	2.4644	1.0000			0.5512
US	1.6368						

OTHER SPOT RATES

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
		1.0000	Oman	0.6301	0.3850
Argentina	1.6368	1.1586	Pakistan	75.620	46.200
Brazil	1.8964	8.2796	Phillipines	67.272	41.100
China	13.552	32.840	Poland	5.6887	3.4755
Czech Rep	53.753	3.4017	Qatar	5.9588	3.6405
Egypt	5.5679	2335.0	Russia	10156.3	6205.0
Ghana	3821.9	219.10	South Korea	2199.9	1344.00
Hungary	358.62	42.460	Taiwan	56.060	34.250
India	69.499	15150.0	Thailand	67.436	41.200
Indonesia	24797.5	0.3070	Turkey	439219	268340
Kuwait	0.5025	85.500	UAE	6.0111	3.6725
Nigeria	139.95				

INTEREST RATES

UK		Germany		US		Japan	
Base	7.50%	Discount	2.50%	Prime	8.50%	Discount	0.50
France		Lombard	4.50%	Discount	5.00%	Belgium	
Intervention	3.30%	Canada		Fed Funds	5.44%	Discount	2.75%
Italy		Prime	6.50%	Spain		Central	3.30%
Discount	5.00%	Discount	5.00%	10-d Repo	4.25%	Switzerland	
Netherlands		Denmark		Sweden		Discount	1.00%
SpAdvance	3.30%	Discount	3.75%	Repo(Awe)	4.10%	Lombard	4.00%

BOND YIELDS

Country	3 mth	chg	1 yr	chg	2 yr	chg	5 yr	chg	10 yr	chg
Australia	4.93	-0.01	5.00	-0.04	5.13	-0.04	5.32	-0.02	5.46	-0.05
Belgium	3.62	0.00	3.86	0.00	4.03	-0.01	4.34	-0.01	4.88	0.01
Canada	4.77	-0.01	5.15	0.00	5.16	0.01	5.21	-0.01	5.27	-0.01
ECU	4.19	0.00	4.18	0.00	4.07	0.00	4.41	-0.01	4.83	0.01
France	0.00	0.00	3.64	-0.01	4.01	0.01	4.38	0.02	4.80	0.02
Germany	3.56	0.00	3.85	-0.02	3.93	0.02	4.34	0.02	4.72	0.01
Italy	4.67	-0.04	4.37	-0.05	4.36	0.00	4.63	0.01	5.00	0.01
Japan	0.41	0.01	0.43	0.00	0.51	0.00	0.98	0.00	1.61	0.01
N'lands	3.53	-0.02	3.81	-0.04	4.00	0.00	4.33	0.01	4.79	0.01
Spain	4.20	-0.01	4.07	0.03	4.16	0.02	4.53	0.01	4.96	0.02
Sweden	4.16	0.00	4.18	0.01	4.27	0.01	4.56	0.01	4.91	0.02
S'land	2.06	-0.06	2.22	-0.03	2.13	-0.01	2.50	0.00	3.15	0.02
UK	7.35	0.00	8.00	0.00	6.90	0.03	6.30	0.03	5.82	0.03
US	4.95	0.04	5.06	0.01	5.43	0.02	5.42	0.02	5.41	0.02

MONEY MARKET RATES

	Overnight Bid Offer	1 week Bid Offer	1 month Bid Offer	3 months Bid Offer	6 months Bid Offer	1 year Bid Offer
Treasury Bills			7.43 7.28	7.50 7.35		
LIBOR						
Domestic Depos	7.00 7.13	7.13 7.25	7.56 7.50	7.75 7.81	7.81 7.88	7.887 94
Eurosterling Deps	7.25 7.38	7.38 7.50	7.59 7.66	7.75 7.81	7.81 7.88	7.917 97
Eligible Bank Bills			7.50 7.40	7.58 7.48	7.58 7.48	
Sterling CDs			7.59 7.53	7.81 7.73	7.83 7.73	7.907 80
Eurodollar CDs			5.58	5.62	5.67	
ECU Deposits			4.06 4.19	4.06 4.19	4.06 4.19	

www.bloomberg.com/uk Source: Bloomberg

LIFFE FINANCIAL FUTURES

Contract		Settlement	High	Low	Est floor volume	Open interest
Long Gilt	Sep-98	106.83	109.17	108.77	42843.00	132812.00
5 yr Gilt	Sep-98	103.02	103.08	103.02	834.00	3234.00
German Bund	Sep-98	108.82	109.05	108.78	9419.00	70873.00
Italian Bond	Sep-98	120.92	121.16	120.88	18522.00	104874.00
Japan Govt Bd	Sep-98	132.64	132.88	132.61	1675.00	6.00
3 Mth Sterling	Sep-98	92.09	92.11	92.09	222099.00	1686577.00
	Dec-98	92.13	92.16	92.12	18509.00	184750.00
3 Mth Euromark	Aug-98	96.42				9553.00
	Sep-98	96.37	96.39	96.37	57640.00	453808.00
3 Mth Eurolira	Sep-98	95.60	95.61	95.57	31329.00	187541.00
	Dec-98	96.06	96.07	96.04	7436.00	165673.00
3 Mth Euryen	Sep-98	99.78				0.00
3 Mth Euroswiss	Sep-98	97.93	97.99	97.91	17785.00	97279.00
	Dec-98	97.74	97.79	97.71	14591.00	51117.00
3 Mth Euro	Aug-98	95.96				7274.00
	Sep-98	95.86	95.86	95.86	339.00	15812.00
FTSE 100	Sep-98	6068.00	6105.00	6048.00	20545.00	167624.00

LIFFE FTSE 100 INDEX OPTION

Settlement Price 6003.40

Series	Jul Call	Jul Imp Vol	Jul Put	Jul Imp Vol	Aug Call	Aug Put	Sep Call	Sep Put	Oct Call	Oct Put
5950	379.30	5	23		446	61	519	101	572	127
6000	332.29	7	23		406	70	481	114	537	142
6050	286.27	11	22		369	81	442	128	502	157
6100	241.25	15	20		332	93	404	141	466	173

ENERGY AT 5:30PM

Brent Crude($/barrel)				Gas oil($/tonne)				WTI Crude($/barrel)				Products($/tonne)		
IPE	Last*	Chg	Vol	IPE	Close	Chg	Vol	NYM	Last*	Chg		Spot CIF NW Eur		
Aug	12.24	-0.03	34122	Jul	113.25	-1.50	16.95	Aug	13.83	-0.10		Gasoline 95	154.50	
Sep	12.12	-0.03	21	Aug	117.50	-1.25	425	Aug	13.83	-0.10		Naphtha	125.00	
Oct	12.00	-0.03	598	Sep	121.75	-1.50	1167	Sep	14.31	-0.10		Gasoil	110.50	
								Oct	14.75	-0.05		Fuel Oil (3.5%)	52.50	

GOLDMAN SACHS COMMODITY INDICES AT 5:30PM

	BASE DATE	LAST	CHG	%CHG	31 DEC	%CHGYTD
Index	1970=100	153.08	-0.58	0.38	215.26	-28.89
Agricultural	1970=100	201.05	3.05	1.54	231.23	-13.05
Energy	1985=100	52.93	-0.10	-0.19	85.86	-38.38
Ind Metals	1977=100	135.48	0.00	0.00	168.79	-19.73
Livestock	1970=100	108.03	0.53	0.32	191.03	-12.04
Prec Metals	1973=100	392.21	2.32	0.60	463.54	-15.39

INDUSTRIAL METALS

LME ($/tonne)	Cash		Chg	3 month		Chg	LMEstocks	Chgs
Aluminium HG	1267.5	1268.5	4.50	1296.5	1297	4	521350	-3400
Aluminium Alloy	1180	1190	-5.00	1170	1175	-1	56360	120
Copper A	1589	1590	-4.00	1607	1608	-5	246575	-1175
Lead	532	533	-19.50	524	525	+14	103725	-200
Nickel	4190	4200	-55.00	4250	4260	-50	59712	-204
Tin	5610	5620	-70.00	5500	5510	-40	4855	15
Zinc	1002.5	1003.5	-9.00	1028	1028.5	-8.5	390400	-1700

PRECIOUS METALS

pm fix/$ per oz		Day's chg	Year's chg	pm fix/£ per oz		Day's chg	Year's chg	Coins ($)		Year's chg
Platinum	378.00	14.00	-31.00	Platinum	230.85	9.45	-12.25	Krugrands	295.45	-20.45
Palladium	296.50	7.50	116.50	Palladium	181.05	5.25	74.05	Sovs	69.07	
Silver	5.35	0.02	0.87	Silver	3.27	0.03	0.61	Nobles	378.55	
Gold	293.75	1.50	-24.25					Maple Leaf	304.95	-24.97

AGRICULTURAL AT 5:30PM

Cocoa	Coffee	Barley	Potatoes	Lge Potatoes
LIFFE £/tonne	LIFFE $/tonne	LIFFE £/tonne	LIFFE £/tonne	ATA $/25 kg
Jul98 1066.00	Jul98 1566.00	Sep98 69.00	Nov98 80.00	Apr99 654.00
Sep98 1098.00	Sep98 1594.00	Nov98 71.50	Mar99 110.00	May99 641.50
Dec98 1125.00	Nov98 1600.00	Jan99 73.50	Apr99 157.00	Apr99 623.75
Vol: 0	Vol: 0	Vol: 0	Vol: 0	Vol: 0
White Sugar*	**Freight**	**Wheat**	**Corn***	**Soya Beans***
LIFFE $/tonne	LIFFE $10/0 pt	LIFFE $/tonne	CBOT Cents/bshl	CBOT $/5k bshl
Aug98 254.20	Jul98 855.00	Jul98 75.00	Jul98 241.50	Jul98 25.80
Oct98 246.80	Aug98 870.00	Sep98 69.75	Sep98 246.50	Aug98 27.50
Dec98 249.10	Oct98 960.00	Nov98 71.75	Dec98 251.25	Sep98 25.80
Vol: 0	Vol: 0	Vol: 0	Vol: 0	Vol: 0

OTHER SPOTS AT 5:30PM

Aug	Live Cattle	(CME) $/40k lb	64.47	Jul	White Maize	(SAF) $/100 mt	738.00
Aug	Pork Bellies	(CME) $/40k lb	58.95	Jul	Rubber	(TCM) Y/ 5k kg	98.40
Sep	Orange Juice	(CTN) $/15k lb	109.15	Dec	Cotton	(CTN) $/50k lb	76.72
Jul	Milk	(CSC) $/50k lb	...	Jul	Crude Palm	(KLC) $/25 tn	2432.00
Sep	Oats	(CBT) $/5k bsh	129.50	Dec	Soya Oil	(CBT) $/60k lb	26.41
Jul	Flax	(WCE) $/20 tn	368.00	Jul	Woollen Yarn	(TCM) $/500kg	1255.00

SPORT

Australia desperate for on-pitch direction

MICHAEL LYNAGH

THE STATISTICS aren't pretty. Played seven, lost seven; 88 points for, 328 points against. Right from when the "thick heads" (no doubt coach Clive Woodward will be asked by the Rugby Football Union to explain his interesting choice of words on his return) decided that England were going to undertake their tour to the southern hemisphere, it was always going to be a disaster. Even with a full strength side it was going to be tough.

Let's leave the poor, old, battered English line-up for the moment and have a look at the teams that they played against as they prepare to face one another in the Tri-Nations series.

Australia are at an interesting stage of development. They have for a few seasons now promised so much, but delivered relatively little. That may sound surprising after a 76-0 victory over the Pommies, but although Australia have won matches, they have not put in the performance on the pitch which matches the calibre of players in the team.

The stand-off problem seems to have been solved. Stephen Larkam is a wonderful rugby player and he orchestrated things beautifully in the games against the Scots and the English. It will be interesting to see how he copes with the pressure that the All Blacks and South Africa are bound to apply.

The reason for the Wallabies lacklustre performances over the past few seasons, is the lack of direction on the paddock. The individual players, particularly in the backs, are capable of the most extraordinary things on the field, the most intricate of set moves, but what the team lacks is someone on the pitch who can call the right moves at the right time. The right time being determined by position, the score, the time left and what the opposition are doing in terms of defence.

Additionally, and most importantly, they have to be able to adjust all this on the run during the game. The easy part about rugby is winning the ball; what you do with it when you have got it is the hard part. I'm sure the forwards among us will disagree with this.

It may sound like I am criticising John Eales, the Wallaby captain. But this is not he case. It is not his role on the field. After all, his counterpart, Sean Fitzpatrick, did not call the back-row or back-line moves for the All Blacks. He had other people in key positions doing that for him.

This is not just the Wallabies problem. The All Blacks are suffering from the same syndrome.

There has been a lot of discussion as to the demise of the All Blacks. Has the loss of influential players, namely Fitzpatrick, Bunce, and Brooke, brought back New Zealand to the level of other mere mortal teams? The All Blacks have more individual talent at their disposal than any other rugby playing country. The problem lies in being able to point this talent in the right direction on the field.

This is where John Hart comes into play. He is the one opposing coach I genuinely feared and respected greatly. You knew when you played a Hart-coached team that they were well versed in all aspects. I feel, with his man-management skills, that he will find that on-field leader. I hope, however, that Australia find one first.

South Africa, meanwhile, would have been better off sitting in the sun than playing Wales in a warm-up for the Tri-Nations series. The Welsh conceded 15 tries in a 96-13 defeat in Pretoria that was the worst in their history. What a waste of time the game was from whatever angle you look at it.

The England game (18-0 to the Springboks) really didn't give us any further clues as to the development of either side, due to Woodward's rain dance to keep the score down working wonders prior to last Saturday's muddy meeting in Cape Town.

The South Africans probably don't have the scintillating, individual brilliance of the All Blacks, or even the Wallabies for that matter. What they do have is a determination to succeed. They simply refuse to be beaten. "Losing is not an option", is a phrase that our coach at Saracens, the former Springbok captain, François Pienaar, used at least in every second sentence during our campaign last season. It seems to be the battle cry with this team also.

This is not to say that the Springboks are a team of determined "no-hopers". They are a very polished outfit, very physical, with no apparent weakness. They will be hard to beat.

Predictions? This will be the closest Tri-Nations series in its short history. Whoever wins – and being Australian I reckon it will be Australia's year – we will see some brilliant rugby.

Unlike the tour games involving under-strength England, when the outcome was known before the teams took the field, the result of all the matches will go right down to the wire.

Test inquest: First-class emphasis is on endgame rather than establishing first-innings superiority

Why England do not command

BY DEREK PRINGLE

THE GREAT escape at Old Trafford, engineered by Alec Stewart and his men, displayed a tenacity that will have touched even the most indifferent of bystanders. To sneak a draw after staring defeat in the face for nearly two days will have undoubtedly given the England team a much-needed fillip, though whether that will help them win either of the two remaining Tests must still be in doubt.

Test matches, the most thorough and prolonged of sporting examinations, are usually won by posting a commanding first-innings score and then taking 20 wickets. Rarely, unless the pitch is poor at the start and calms as the game goes on, does the second innings offer anything but sanctuary and the opportunity to deny an opponent, something England have just done against South Africa at Old Trafford.

To give yourself the best chance of winning you have to score heavily in the first innings. Both players and the game's administrators know this and yet we still persist with a structure at both club and first-class level that places the emphasis on the end game, however contrived.

That is not the case abroad, particularly in Australia, where most cricket – unless an outright victory is managed – is won or lost on the first-innings score. That is principally why England's batsmen appear to be ill-equipped to shape the game, saving their best for reaction to a situation once the match has developed, often beyond their grasp, rather than setting the agenda.

Since the Edgbaston Test against Australia last year, which England won handsomely after posting 478 in their first innings, they have failed to top 200 in nine out of 13 Tests. In the same period two Tests were won and seven lost. With symptoms of first-innings bad health so pronounced, is it any wonder that England are rarely in a position to actually win a Test match?

Then there is the bowling, which failed to pose South Africa the slightest problem at Old Trafford. Before that Test much had been written about the return of the so-called "dream trio" of Darren Gough, Dominic Cork and Angus Fraser. On their day all are fine bowlers. On a benign surface – the like of which they rarely encounter – they were both predictable and similar, all bowling according to the Yellow Pages speedster between 80-85 mph.

Unlike South Africa, whose attack offered collective variety as well as individual unpredictability – the faster bowlers operating between 84 and 89 mph – England's offered an amorphous front. At times it looked like a case of the bland leading the bland, a situation not exactly leavened by two finger spinners unable to extract anything like the turn managed by Paul Adams, a wrist spinner.

Although found wanting, it is difficult to be too hard on the bowlers, who are essentially the products of a flawed system, one whose prolonged season and bowler-friendly pitches has long tended to reward consistency over risk and variety.

Angus Fraser is just such an example, his unstinting accuracy helping to keep him at the forefront of selection for England. Unfortunately, on shirt fronts like the pitch at Old Trafford, his lack of guile means he hopes rather than expects to take wickets, a philosophy not shared by the likes of Allan Donald or even Jacques Kallis, whose respective pace and swing helps keep their team in the hunt.

The problem, acknowledged by the England coach David Lloyd, is one that is being addressed, and the England and Wales Cricket Board have set up wrist spinning clinics as well as fast bowling courses around the country.

"The speedster machine has really put things into perspective," said Lloyd after England had saved the third Test. "All around the world we are hit with big pace and wrist spin. Our bowlers have admirable qualities, but nothing like the quality and variety of other countries.

"We have several good young fast bowlers around. Alex Tudor of Surrey, Melvyn Betts and Stephen Harmison of Durham, as well as Paul Franks and Ryan Sidebottom. It's up to them to take up the challenge and they should start by watching a video of Allan Donald in this last Test. He was hurting and knackered but he still kept coming and coming. That's what helps make him the great fast bowler he is."

If the quality is there, and the success of our youth teams tends to suggest it is, the county system tends to diffuse it. In 1995, the South African Under-19 side toured England and were simply outclassed by the likes of Marcus Trescothick and Tony McGrath. Since then, two of the visting side, Mark Boucher and Makhaya Ntini, are in the Test team, while both Trescothick and McGrath languish in county cricket, seemingly content to be among the also-rans.

If a system's efficiency is measured by output in relation to input, County cricket is clearly inefficient. The ECB has long admitted as much and Lord MacLaurin, according to a tabloid newspaper, has called a September meeting of the county chairmen and chief executives in a bid to move the game into the 21st century.

With television de-listing set to bring more money into the game, the move to a two divisional County Championship will no doubt be aired once more. If it is, it must be rejected. Cricket in this country needs a stepping stone between county and Test level, a combative finishing school that only regional cricket and not the bogus drama of two divisions, can provide.

Angus Fraser (left), Dominic Cork and Darren Gough (right) toil in the field as South Africa run up their massive first innings score at Old Trafford *Peter Jay*

All Blacks leave Lomu on bench as Viridi advances

BY WYN GRIFFITHS

JONAH LOMU, England's juggernaut-sized nemesis, may have left a number of the red rose fraternity seeking counselling but he is clearly not considered a formidable enough winger for the stampeding All Blacks. For the second time in his 22-Test career, the giant back was dropped yesterday as the New Zealand selectors turned in his stead to another behemoth straight off the silver fern production line by the name of Joeli Viridi.

Having missed most of last season with a rare kidney disorder, Lomu returned for the tour of Britain and recently played the opening two Tests against England before Saturday's first Tri-Nations Test against Australia in Melbourne. Lomu was below his best in the 40-10 drubbing of England's beleaguered tourists in the second Test and was replaced late in the game by Viridi, who scored a try.

"Joeli deserves his opportunity and in the way he plays the game this is an opportunity for him," John Hart, the All Blacks coach, said. "It is an important decision to leave out Jonah but [he] had a very poor game [against England] by his own admission and I think if he was to come off the bench he would be very effective."

Hart said if Lomu was to be picked as a replacement for the Melbourne match there was a chance that he would provide back-up for both the loose forwards as well as the backs.

While Viridi's inclusion adds further inexperience to an All Blacks bereft of the stalwart talents of Sean Fitzpatrick, Zinzan Brooke and Frank Bunce, the scrum-half Justin Marshall will return after playing one match since tearing his Achilles tendon in March. However, the centre Mark Mayerhofler suffered a hamstring injury during a training session on Monday and will not play. The veteran Walter Little is still in doubt with a foot injury and Carlos Spencer has been selected on standby if Little fails to improve.

Another giant of the game, the 7ft 1in Newcastle lock Richard Metcalfe, is to leave the Premiership champions. The 24-year-old Scotland A forward is frustrated at the lack of first-team opportunities at the Falcons, where he has established internationals Garath Archer and Doddie Weir in front of him for the second row positions.

"I want to stay at Newcastle but I also want to further my rugby career and play for Scotland," he said. "To do that I need to be playing first-team rugby regularly, which I am not doing at Newcastle."

Metcalfe, who will be placed on the transfer list, has gained international representative honours at A level for both England and Scotland and was included in the full Scotland squad last season without making his debut. He is set to become the second player to leave Newcastle since they clinched the title, the full-back Tim Stimpson having joined Leicester.

There is also speculation over the future of Newcastle's Western Samoan international Pat Lam. The 29-year-old player of the year has been linked with a move to Northampton. Lam's position could become clearer today when Newcastle reveal their squad for the new season.

■ South Africa plan midweek matches in Scotland and Ireland on their four-Test tour of Britain and Ireland later this year.

SOUTH AFRICA (British tour itinerary): 10 November v Scottish provincial side (venue to be announced). **14 Nov** v Wales (Twickenham); **17 Nov** v Scottish provincial side (venue tba); **21 Nov** v Scotland (Murrayfield); **24 Nov** v Irish provincial side (venue tba); **28 Nov** v Ireland (Lansdowne Road). **1 December** v Irish provincial side (venue tba). **5 Dec** v England (Twickenham).

Croft returns to add grit to Glamorgan's attack

ROBERT CROFT, England's stalwart at the crease at Old Trafford against South Africa on Tuesday, travels back across the border to turn out for Glamorgan in today's NatWest Trophy second-round tie against Leicestershire at Sophia Gardens.

His team-mate Steve James, discarded by England after making his Test debut at Lord's last month, is expected to play alongside Croft despite suffering from an injured right index finger picked up when dropping a catch against Nottinghamshire last week and aggravated during the next match against Surrey. James was forced to withdraw from Sunday's AXA League match and X-rays indicate there is a slight crack in the bone but he is still determined to play. Waqar Younis, who has a damaged elbow, is out.

Leicestershire have omitted the fast bowler David Millns. Millns has only just returned following a long lay-off because of an ear infection. Also missing will be the fast bowler James Ormond, who is still recovering from a back problem. Medium pacer Dominic Williamson is included, with the all-rounder Jon Dakin and off-spinner Tim Mason also in the squad.

Nick Knight and Ashley Giles scuttle back to Warwickshire to provide last year's beaten finalists with a near full-strength squad for their tie against Kent at Edgbaston. Ominously for Kent, Warwickshire have won all the previous four encounters between the two.

Darren Gough returns to Old Trafford to spearhead Yorkshire's attack. Gough joins Chris Silverwood with the left-arm seamer Ryan Sidebottom the bowler likely to drop out. Yorkshire, still without Craig White, who has a back injury, make a late check on Anthony McGrath, who has been suffering from flu since the weekend.

Their roses opponents should include Warren Hegg and Neil Fairbrother, who are both expected to pass late fitness tests. With Mike Atherton available again and Wasim Akram also fully fit after shoulder and groin troubles, Lancashire can select from a full-strength squad for a match that is expected to attract a crowd of almost 10,000.

Darren Robinson's broken finger will keep him out of Essex's tie against Hampshire at Southampton. The 25-year-old will also miss their Benson and Hedges Cup final against Leicestershire at Lord's on Saturday. However, Nasser Hussain is expected to play. Robin Smith and Peter Hartley are both doubtful. Smith has a broken right-index finger while Hartley is still being troubled by a shoulder injury. Matthew Keech is also ruled out but Jason Laney is named in a party of 13.

Nottinghamshire are boosted by Tim Robinson's return against Somerset at Trent Bridge. He replaces Noel Gie as the only change to the side that lost to Middlesex at the weekend. Somerset will be without wicketkeeper Rob Turner, who has an elbow injury. Mike Burns takes over the gloves, while the experienced Richard Harden is recalled.

Derbyshire's Phillip DeFreitas misses the confrontation against Scotland at Edinburgh. The seam bowler has tonsillitis while a back injury has ruled out opening batsman Adrian Rollins. Robin Weston comes into a 13-man squad that includes wicketkeeper Karl Krikken, who has recovered from a cracked cheekbone. Dominic Cork is back as captain.

The Scots are without all-rounder Mike Allingham and opener Bryn Lockie. The Scots have also preferred Steve Crawley to Drew Parsons. The selectors, however, have dropped wicketkeeper Alec Davies whose place goes to Oxford University's Douglas Lockhart.

Gloucestershire's young blade Dominic Hewson returns to the side for the encounter with Surrey at Bristol. Hewson missed Sunday's AXA League victory over Hampshire with a slight ankle injury, after steering Gloucestershire to success in the Championship match the previous day.

Fifty years of the British Grand Prix: How a disused Northamptonshire airfield became one of motor racing's greatest venues

Silverstone stands the test of time

BY DERICK ALLSOP

IT IS a scene that would have defied the wildest fantasies of its pioneers: a four-day festival, attracting a crowd of 225,000, the feature event watched by a live television audience of 350 million people in 130 countries around the world, generating £30m annually for the local economy.

And so much more besides. The British Grand Prix at Silverstone is one of the nation's great social happenings as well as a blue riband occasion on the sporting calendar, a place to be at and be seen at. And this weekend it celebrates its golden jubilee.

Across the landscape of that half-century this exposed, windswept plain on the Northamptonshire-Buckinghamshire border has played host to some of the most spectacular encounters in motor racing. Its beginnings, however humble, were no less dramatic.

Britain was ravenous for recreation in the aftermath of the Second World War. Football grounds were bursting at the seams and motoring enthusiasts were scouring the land for their own playing fields.

Brooklands and Donington, venues for the British Grand Prix in the 1920s and 1930s, were occupied by the Vickers aircraft company and military vehicles respectively, while the Crystal Palace circuit had fallen into disrepair.

An abandoned airfield at Silverstone came to light as a potential track after a local man called Maurice Geoghegan and his chums, intent on some motorised fun in September 1947, engaged in what has gone down in racing lore as the "Mutton Grand Prix". Geoghegan's Frazer Nash was put out of action when he ran into an unwary sheep.

News of Silverstone spread through the motoring fraternity and although the local constabulary resisted subsequent attempts at organised racing, the RAC was alerted to the possibility of a suitable site for its planned 1948 grand prix and a lease was granted.

For that event the organisers laid out a track which utilised not only the perimeter road but also the runways. Since the cars would be hurtling in opposite directions before turning sharp left at the intersections, canvas screens were erected to put any fears out of the drivers' minds.

Unsurprisingly, this section of the circuit was changed the following year, when the race formally took on the title of the British Grand Prix. That revised shape remained intact for 25 years, until a chicane was introduced at Woodcote.

Silverstone was never the most loved circuit in the world. It lacked the atmosphere of Monza, the splendour of Spa and the natural amphitheatre of Brands Hatch for instance. But it was fast. Blindingly fast. Keke Rosberg qualified his Williams-Honda for the 1985 race at a record 160.725mph.

Radical alterations had to be made for safety reasons in 1992, and they have since been fine-tuned to the wider satisfaction of drivers and spectators alike.

Equally significant improvements have been made off track since the days of straw bales, oil drums and roped-off public enclosures. For this year's grand prix, 53,000 grandstand seats are in place. Hospitality and catering facilities extend by the year. On Sunday Silverstone will becomes the world's busiest airport, with nearly 4,000 helicopter movements.

From the mid-1950s until 1986 Silverstone shared the honour of staging the British Grand Prix, initially with Aintree and then with Brands Hatch. When the FIA, the governing body, decided on a policy of one country one circuit, Silverstone, with its greater scope for development, was chosen.

Despite the changes over the years, original names of corners and straights have stood the test of time. The first man to negotiate Becketts, Chapel, Stowe, Club, Abbey and Hangar Straight en route to victory was Luigi Villoresi, an Italian driving a Maserati.

Giuseppe Farina, his fellow countryman, driving an Alfa Romeo, claimed the distinction of winning the 1950 race, which was the first round of the inaugural World Championship, and given the additional accolade of Grand Prix of Europe.

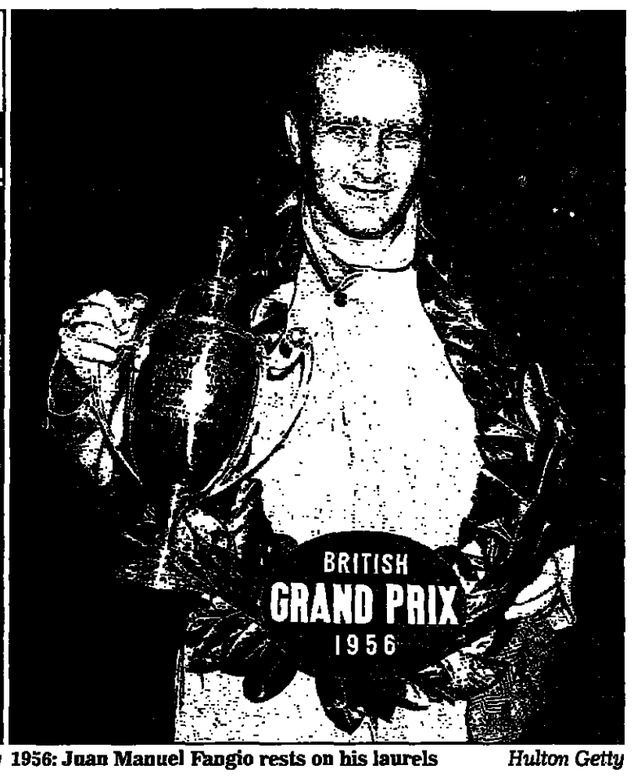
Home drivers have a good record at Silverstone, although one of the most celebrated performances resulted in glorious failure. Graham Hill stalled at the start in 1960 but carved his way through the field to take the lead, only to spin under pressure from Jack Brabham.

Hill's son, Damon, won a famously controversial British Grand Prix in 1994 after Michael Schumacher ignored the black flag. The villain of 1973 was Jody Scheckter, who spun and caused a massive pile-up at the start and had to be locked away by his team. Almost forgotten is the winner that day, Peter Revson.

Perhaps most memorable of all was the 1987 race at Silverstone, when Nigel Mansell, who brought a new fervour to motor racing in this country, pulled back a 28-second deficit to beat his Williams teammate and nemesis, Nelson Piquet. Mansell completed the classic by outwitting the Brazilian with a double feint along Hangar Straight at 200 mph.

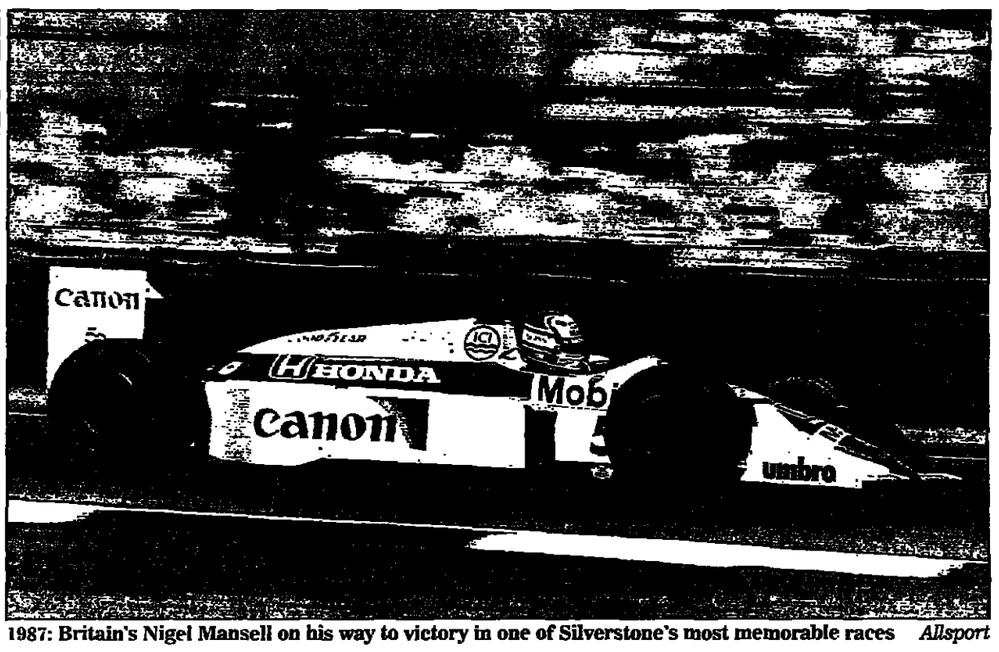
Drivers of the next half-century have a hard act to follow.

1948: A push start for the inaugural British Grand Prix. The race was won by Luigi Villoresi in a Maserati *Hulton Getty*



1956: Juan Manuel Fangio rests on his laurels *Hulton Getty*

1960: Jack Brabham completes a pole to flag victory in a Cooper Climax *Hulton Getty*



1987: Britain's Nigel Mansell on his way to victory in one of Silverstone's most memorable races *Allsport*

FIFTY YEARS OF SILVERSTONE

1948 Converted RAF World War II bomber training base hosts first grand prix on a 3.67-mile circuit. Lap record set at 77mph by Luigi Villoresi in a Maserati

1949 Club chicane removed and circuit assumes the 2.9-mile shape that lasts 25 years unaltered

1950 Silverstone is first circuit to host a race for the new world championship for drivers

1951 RAC gives up running the circuit. The British Racing Drivers' Club takes on the lease

1971 BRDC purchases freehold of entire 720-acre estate. Lap record tops 130mph, set by Jackie Stewart in a Tyrrell-Ford

1973 Jody Scheckter spins his McLaren exiting Woodcote on lap one of grand prix and triggers mass pile-up

1975 44 modern pits constructed and Woodcote slowed by inserting a right-left-right chicane. Lap length now 2.932 miles

1979 Entire circuit resurfaced in "Delugrip" high-grip material. Lap record now over 140mph, set by Clay Regazzoni in a Williams-Ford

1985 Keke Rosberg becomes fastest man ever around Silverstone with a qualifying lap of 160.925mph in a Williams. Alain Prost sets new lap record of 150mph in a McLaren-Tag Turbo

1987 New left-right corner inserted before Woodcote to trim speeds over start-finish line. Lap 2.969 miles

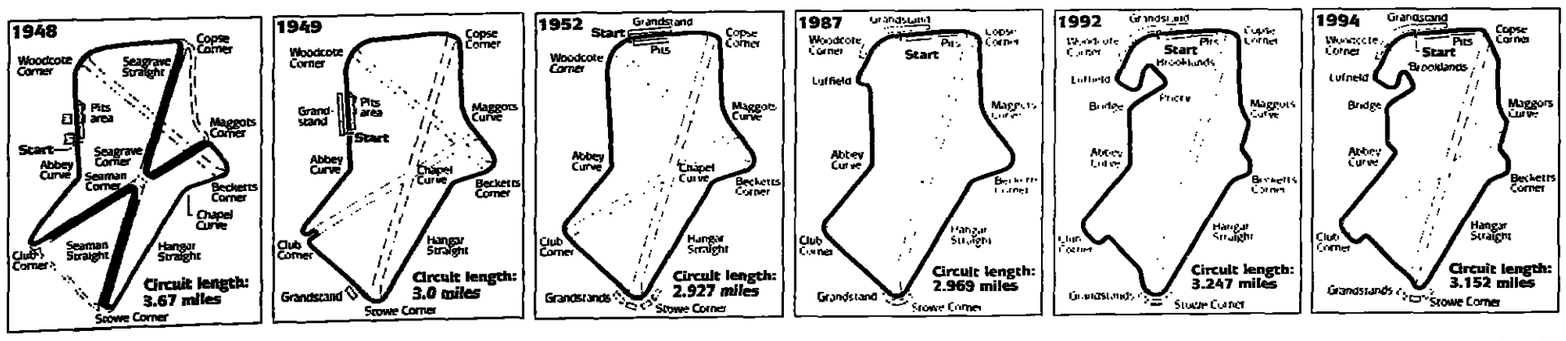
1992 Major revisions to track see new Becketts sequence. Vale link between Stowe and Club, Bridge bend and Priory infield loop

1994 Driver safety increased with new gravel traps at Copse, Stowe, Vale, Abbey and Priory, using 1,000 lorry-loads of materials

1996 Stowe corner revised to run quicker. New lap length is 3.152 miles and lap record is established by Jacques Villeneuve at 127.096

1997 Copse, Priory, Brooklands and Luffield altered and track resurfaced. Circuit now 3.194 miles long. Michael Schumacher sets lap record of 136.115mph

HOW THE SILVERSTONE CIRCUIT HAS CHANGED OVER THE YEARS



Melbourne extension

MELBOURNE HAS won the right to host the Australian Grand Prix for a further five years until 2006 following negotiations with the Victorian Government, Australian Grand Prix Corporation and Formula One administration.

Melbourne took over the staging of the race from Adelaide in 1996 and is expected to again be the scene of the opening grand prix of the season when the 1999 calendar is released.

Gerhard Berger has been put in charge of preparing BMW's return to Formula One racing with Williams in 2000. The Austrian won 10 grands prix in a 210-race career that spanned stints with Benetton, McLaren and Ferrari.

The Spanish 500cc motorcyclist Carlos Checa is "improving steadily" after crashing during practice for last Sunday's British Grand Prix at Donington Park.

Checa had his spleen removed and after strong initial progress, he suffered a stroke which left him with problems with his vision and movement.

Spectators sit and enjoy the initial dressage phase of the Horse and Hound Eventing Grand Prix at the Royal International Horse Show at Hickstead yesterday *David Ashdown*

Bartle's dynamic dressage display

EQUESTRIANISM

BY GENEVIEVE MURPHY
at Hickstead

CHRIS BARTLE held the lead half-way through yesterday's *dressage phase of the* Horse and Hound Eventing Grand Prix at the Royal International Horse Show, raising hopes that he might be able to claim a £20,000 jackpot by adding *success in this contest to his* victory at Badminton in May.

Bartle, who was sixth in the 1984 Olympic dressage, produced a lovely test from his Badminton victor, Word Perfect II, for a score of 68.27 per cent ahead of Ireland's Lucy Thompson on Welton Molecule (66) and Pippa Funnell on The Tourmeline Rose (65.6).

The compelling part of this completely new contest (the brainchild of Paul Schockemöhle who came in to save the Hickstead course from possible closure last year) will come today when riders face a track of 28 fences in and around the international arena. It is an unusual course, to say the least.

Designed by Robert Lemieux, who retired from three-day eventing after breaking his leg last year, it will be a serious test of boldness and accuracy. After jumping eight fences in the arena, competitors (among them five show-jumping riders) will face a yawning ditch and hedge into an area of Douglas Bunn's back garden. The nine fences there include three parts of the Badminton Bounce, where the distance looks extremely tight, and a huge spread fence called the Seahorse Helicopter Oxer. Back in the arena (if they get that far) riders have 11 permanent obstacles to jump before going through the finish.

"It's a great concept and I hope it goes well," Bartle said, before he had seen the fences. "It would be great for the horses to have something like this to do mid-season that isn't as taxing as a three-day event."

Today's jumping will be judged on time, with a five-second penalty for each fence knocked down. Lemieux said: "It remains to be seen whether that's the right penalty, it's such a completely new concept that we can't expect things to be spot-on *from day one." If the* eventing grand prix is a success, Schockemöhle has plans to introduce similar contests on the *Continent.* "It's new and fresh, we need this for our sport," said Rodrigo Pessoa, the Brazilian winner of this year's *Volvo World Cup for show jumping* and a competitor here.

RACING RESULTS

NEWMARKET

2.05: (7f 2yo maiden stakes)
1. *NIMELLO* ... T Quinn 8-1
2. Meneer ... L Dettori 6-4 fav
3. Date ... K Fallon 20-1

Also ran: 4-1 Tawwag (5th), 4-1 Waterfront, 7-1 Learned Friend (4th), 20-1 Toto Caelo (6th), 25-1 *Moutahddee*, 33-1 *Gold Lodge*.
9 ran. 1'/, 1'/, nk, '/, '/. (*Winner bay colt by Kingmambo out of Zakota*, trained by P Cole at Whatcombe for C Shiacolas). Tote: £10.10, £2.30, £1.10, £3.30. DF: £11.70. CSF: £18.55. *Trio*: £57.30.

2.35: (1m handicap)
1. MOUNT HOLLY ... Dane O'Neill 25-1
2. Wild Sky ... A Clark 10-1
3. Toujours Riviera ... G Bardwell 25-1
4. Safey Ana ... G Hind 16-1

Also ran: 6-1 fav Star Talent, 13-2 Bowcliffe, 7-1 Ben Gunn, Loyal Toast, 14-1 Alhawa (5th), 16-1 Huntswood, Judicial Supremacy, 20-1 Honest Borderer, Hugwity, Indium, 25-1 *Classic Find (6th)*, *Mr Majica*, Swift, 33-1 Hever Golf Glory, Northern Blessing, 50-1 Green Power
20 ran. Nk, 1'/, '/, sht-hd, hd. (*Winner bay colt by Woodman out of Mount Helena*, trained by K Mahdi at Newmarket for Hamad Al-Mutawa). Tote: £28.40; £4.70, £2.70, £9.30, £3.20. DF: £116.40. CSF: £209.20. Tricast: £5,802.54. Trio: £3,651.70 (part won).

3.05: (6f 2yo fillies Group Three Cherry Hinton Stakes)
1. WANNABE GRAND ... W R Swinburn 11-1
2. Pipalong ... L Charnock 7-2
3. Pescara ... O Doleuze 9-2

Also ran: 13-8 fav Spirit Willing (5th), 8-1 Blue Melody, 10-1 Rose Of Mooncoin (4th), 14-1 Kalidasa (6th), 16-1 Hasty Words, 25-1 Aunt Flo, 100-1 Black Rocket.
10 ran. 1'/, sht-hd, '/, nk, 1'/. (*Winner bay filly by Danehill out of Wannabe*, trained by J Noseda at Newmarket for B McAllister). Tote: £14.10; £2.60, £1.40, £1.80. DF: £29.60. CSF: £48.09. Trio: £27.70

3.40: (1m4f Group Three Princess Of Wales's Stakes)
1. FRUITS OF LOVE ... M Hills 7-1
2. Multicoloured ... W R Swinburn 12-1
3. Germano ... Pat Eddery 9-4 fav

Also ran: 3-1 Eaton Square, 9-2 Sabadilla (5th), 11-1 Garuda (4th), 12-1 Single Empire (6th)
7 ran. 1'/, '/, '/, sht-hd, sht-hd. (*Winner bay colt by Hansel out of Vallee Secrete*, trained by M Johnston at Middleham for M Doyle). Tote: £6.80; £2.20, £3.90. DF: £18.20. CSF: £69.58.

4.10: (6f 3yo rated handicap)
1. MISBAH ... R Hills 7-2 fav
2. Second Wind ... T Quinn 12-1
3. Zizi ... N Callan 20-1

Also ran: 13-2 Zelanda (5th), 7-1 Hill Magic (6th), 15-2 *Magic Rainbow (4th)*, 8-1 Gypsy Moth, 9-1 Petarga, 10-1 Taittinger, 14-1 Pool Music, 16-1 Tango, 20-1 Clef of Silver, 20-1 Titanic, 33-1 Julies Jewel, 50-1 Chips.
15 ran. 1'/, '/, '/, nk, 1'/. (*Winner bay colt by Gilded Time out of For Dixie*, trained by B Hanbury at Newmarket for Hamdan Al Maktoum). Tote: win, £2.30, £3.90, £8.60. DF: £38.50. CSF: £43.15. Tricast: £722.29. Trio: £1,054.40

4.45: (7f 3yo fillies rated handicap)
1. FILFILAH ... R Hills 7-1
2. Golden Fortune ... M Henry 7-1
3. Poly Blue ... P Doe 15-1

Also ran: 7-4 fav Diamond White, 5-1 Another Fantasy (6th), 9-1 Up At The Top, 12-1 *Ffestiniog (4th)*, 25-1 Rising of The Moon (5th).
8 ran. Nk, 3, '/, 1, 1'/. (*Winner chestnut filly by Cadeaux Genereux out of El Rabab*, trained by P Walwyn at Lambourn for Hamdan Al Maktoum). Tote: £6.60; £1.50, £1.80, £3.30. DF: £22.60. CSF: £41.34. Tricast: £501.90. Trio: £86.20. NR: Behold. No 6 Behold (8-1) was withdrawn not under orders. Rule 4 applies to all bets, deduction 10p in the pound

5.15: (5f handicap)
1. ELLENS LAD ... K Fallon 4-1 fav
2. Mousehole ... P Robinson 11-2
3. Afaan ... T G McLaughlin 10-1

Also ran: 7-1 Pleasure Time, 8-1 Canovas Heart, 10-1 Maladena, 10-1 Miss Money Spider, 10-1 Taoiste, 12-1 Sky Red (5th), 12-1 Swynford Dream, 14-1 Sue Me (4th), 16-1 Loganlea, 25-1 Sharp Pearl, 33-1 Ajnad (6th).
14 ran. Nk, hd, 1'/, 1'/, 1'/. (*Winner bay gelding by Polish Patriot out of Lady Ellen*, trained by E Alston at Longton for Mrs Chris Harrington). Tote: £4.70; £2.00, £2.50, £3.70. DF: £10.30. CSF: £24.45. Tricast: £205.23. Trio: £142.90.
Jackpot: not won (pool of £28,372.64 carried forward to Newmarket today).
Placepot: £2,312.70. Quadpot: £591.40.
Place 6: £2,187.46. Place 5: £1,080.48.

PONTEFRACT

2.20: (1m2f Ladies handicap)
1. TAJAR ... Mrs H Keddy 14-1
2. Tapatch Miss S Brotherton 7-2 jt fav
3. Don't Drop Bombs ... J Feilden 25-1

Also ran: 7-2 jt fav Shalyah, 11-1 Bold Top, Gore Hill, 12-1 Comic Hill (6th), Grovefair Lad (4th), 14-1 Waikiki Beach, 16-1 Patrita Park (5th), *Stolen Music*, *Zuryal*, 20-1 Zahran, 25-1 Cool Mystery, 33-1 Rockette.
15 ran. Sht-hd, 2, hd, 1'/, '/. (*Winner bay gelding by Slew O'Gold out of Mashaarif*, trained by T Keddy at Alfrick for the Veg Chef Partnership) Tote: £23.80; £5.20, £1.90, £3.80. DF: £101.00. CSF: £54.98. Tricast: £1,148.71. Trio: £426.50 (part won). NR: Orinoco Venture.

2.50: (6f nursery handicap)
1. COURTESAN ... J Fortune 11-8 fav
2. Beverley Monkey ... J Carroll 6-1
3. Sweet As A Nut ... F Lynch 16-1

Also ran: 13-2 Sunset Lady (4th), 15-2 Ruanbeg (6th), 12-1 College Music, Miss Take (5th), 14-1 So Willing, 16-1 Golden *Reef*.
9 ran. 1'/, nk, sht-hd, 1'/, sht-hd. (*Winner bay filly by Persuit Of Love out of Case For The Crown*, trained by Mrs J Ramsden at Thirsk for Tony Fawcett). Tote: £1.90; £1.30, £1.90, £1.80. DF: £4.00. CSF: £8.82. Tricast: £84.17. Trio: £19.30

3.20: (1m2f maiden stakes)
1. WADI ... W Ryan 7-2 fav
2. Moulin Rouge ... J Fortune 9-2
3. Glenmead ... J Carroll 4-1

Also ran: 9-2 Trojan Wolf (4th), 11-2 Rose of Shuaib, 16-1 Wayne Lukas (5th), Zeeneh, 20-1 Genetic, 25-1 Daniel Deronda (6th), 50-1 Kirby Princess, 100-1 Sarteano.
11 *ran*. 1, 1'/, 1'/, 1'/, 1'/. (*Winner bay colt by Green Desert out of Eternal*, trained by H Cecil at Newmarket for K Abdulla). Tote: £3.70; £1.30, £1.60, £1.90. DF: £7.30. CSF: £16.95. Trio: £21.90. NR: Billy Moonshine

3.55: (6f handicap)
1. RAY OF SUNSHINE J Fortune 6-1 fav
2. Time To Tango ... G Duffield 14-1
3. Mytions Mistake ... K Darley 8-1

Also ran: 7-1 Angel Hill, Broughtons Turmoil (4th), French Grit, 8-1 Young Bigwig, 12-1 Caution (6th), 14-1 Bowlers Boy, Meranti, Riffif, 16-1 Demolition Jo, 20-1 Fairy Prince (5th), Julmat John, 40-1 Loch-Hurn Lady.
15 ran. Sht-hd, 1, '/, hd, nk. (*Winner chestnut gelding by Rainbow s For Life out of Maura's Guest*, trained by Mrs J Ramsden at Thirsk for Charlton Bloodstock Ltd). Tote: £4.90, £2.00, £3.10, £3.00. DF: £30.00. CSF: £83.32. Tricast: £648.16. Trio: £98.30

4.25: (1m4f maiden stakes)
1. BRIGADE CHARGE ... R Ffrench 11-10 fav
2. Profiler ... W Ryan 3-1
3. Pendant ... A McGlone 14-1

Also ran: 3-1 Echelle Musicale, 33-1 Southern-Be-George, The Bat (5th), 40-1 Count De Money (6th), 100-1 Elusive Star (4th)
8 ran. '/, 5, 6, 5, 6. (*Winner bay colt by Ahmed out of Fairy Footsteps*, trained by L Cumani at Newmarket for Robert H Smith). Tote: £1.80; £1.10, £1.10, £2.10. DF: £2.60. CSF: £4.07.

5.00: (1m handicap)
1. FIFTH EMERALD ... A McCarthy 20-1
2. Mouche ... J Fortune 7-4 fav
3. Marske Machine ... D McKeown 10-1

Also ran: 7-1 Dancing Feather (6th), 8-1 Mazilla, 10-1 Ikis Girl, 12-1 Freckles, Persian Fantasia, 14-1 Delight Of Dawn (4th), 16-1 Patina, 20-1 Jacobina, Molly Music, 33-1 Cathedral Belle, Lesley's Adventure (5th)
14 ran. 1'/, 1, 3, 1, sht-hd. (*Winner bay filly by Formidable out of Glossary*, trained by C Wall at Newmarket for M Ng). Tote: £32.60; £6.20, £1.80, £2.60. DF: £66.20. CSF: £49.56. Tricast: £377.87. Trio: £354.30.

5.30: (1m2 classified stakes)
1. BLACK WEASEL ... G Carter 6-1
2. Desert Fighter ... A Culhane 3-1 fav
3. *Murmoon* ... *W Ryan 11-2*

Also ran: 4-1 Netta Rufina (5th), 9-2 Summerhill Special (6th), 11-1 Howies Choice, 12-1 Canadian Fantasy (4th).
7 ran. 1'/, nk, '/, 1, sht-hd. (*Winner brown colt by Lahib out of Glowlamp*, trained by J Dunlop at Arundel for Tessona Racing Limited). Tote: £6.10; £2.60, £1.90. DF: £8.30. CSF: £19.97.
Placepot: £23.00. Quadpot: £6.90.
Place 6: £26.17. Place 5: £9.05.

KEMPTON

HYPERION

6.35 Montendre 7.05 Penmayne 7.35 Samara Song 8.05 Secret Spring 8.35 Murghem 9.05 Smarter Charter

GOING: Good (Good to Firm in places); penetrometer - 3.1
STALLS: Straight course - far side, remainder - inside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 5f and 6f.
■ Right-handed. Separate straight for 5f and 6f. Practically flat.
■ Course is on A308 at Sunbury. (Boxing Day only: Bus link from Richmond Underground station.) Kempton Park railway station adjoins course. ADMISSION: Club £15, Juniors (16 to 25-year-olds) £12; Grandstand £10; Silver Ring £5. Accompanied *children under-16 free*. Parking: Members car park £5 (limited and must be pre-booked). Centre car park free. CAR PARK: Members £2; remainder, free.
■ LEADING TRAINERS: R Hannon 32-253 (12.6%), Sir M Stoute 17-93 (18.3%), J Dunlop 15-117 (12.8%), H Cecil 14-63 (22.2%).
■ LEADING JOCKEYS: Pat Eddery 41-199 (20.6%), J Reid 30-161 (18.6%), T Quinn 29-231 (12.6%), L Dettori 19-116 (16.4%).
■ FAVOURITES: 147-463 (31.7%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.

6.35 VIRGIN HELICOPTERS CLAIMING STAKES (E) £4,000 added 6f SKY

1 0-0010 CYRANO'S LAD (10) (D) J Berks 9 9 3 ... N Callan (7) 10
2 21-000 PEPPIATT (30) (D) D Nicholls 4 9 0 ... S Sanders 7
3 01-042 SALTY BEHAVIOUR (23) (D) R Hannon 4 8 12 Dane O'Neill 3
4 010-06 LADY CHARLOTTE (51) (D) D Elsworth 3 8 11 ... A Daly (3) 4
5 6211-6 PAS DE MEMOIRES (14) K Burke 3 8 11 ... J F Egan 8
6 -10304 MONTENDRE (25) (D) R Hodges 11 8 10 ... R Cochrane 5
7 0 FARRIERS STEAL (18) G McCourt 4 8 7 ... R Studholme (5) 1
8 5/000- LUCAYAN BEACH (249) B Gubby 4 8 7 ... R Ffrench 9
9 00-000 SWAN LAKE (6) B Meehan 4 8 5 ... G Duffield 6
10 53-31 PERCY-P (40) W Muir 3 8 4 ... C Lowther 2
– 10 declared –

BETTING: 7-2 Montendre, 4-1 Cyrano's Lad, 5-1 Salty Behaviour, 6-1 Peppiatt, Pas de Memoires, 7-1 Percy-P, 8-1 Lady Charlotte, 20-1 others

FORM VERDICT

CYRANO'S LAD will be difficult to beat with conditions to suit and is strongly fancied to beat Salty Behaviour again, although the latter will be suited by the extra furlong tonight.

7.05 HELICAL BAR ANNIVERSARY MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (E) £5,000 added 2YO 6f SKY

1 0 AUDACITY (28) G Lewis 9 0 ... A Clark 8
2 0 BIG OZ (12) J Cullinan 9 0 ... N Callan (7) 4
3 COPPLESTONE P Harris 9 0 ... C Lowther 13
4 60 DOLPHINELLE (33) R Hannon 9 0 ... R Cochrane 12
5 ENFILADE B Hanbury 9 0 ... G Hind 18
6 EYEBALLS OUT Sir M Prescott 9 0 ... G Duffield 1
7 60 FADMOOR (18) M Tompkins 9 0 ... D Biggs 2
8 0 GOLDEN FORCE (53) R Hannon 9 0 ... R Hughes 10
9 LOVER'S LEAP H Candy 9 0 ... C Rutter 11
10 POWERGOLD W O'Gorman 9 0 ... Emma O'Gorman 3
11 6 SPORTS ROAD (10) R Hannon 9 0 ... Dane O'Neill 7
12 SUPERBOB R Williams 9 0 ... D Harrison 16
13 VILLAGE HOP C Wall 9 0 ... S Sanders 17
14 ECLECTIC S Dow 8 9 ... J F Egan 14
15 0 *GRACE MELBURY* (37) *M Blanshard* 8 9 ... Dale Gibson 15
16 PANSY J Eustace 8 9 ... J Tate 5
17 002 PENMAYNE (18) D Elsworth 8 9 ... T Quinn 20
18 0 POLAR FAIR (12) J Noseda 8 9 ... W R Swinburn 19
19 3 SAKHA (18) J Dunlop 8 9 ... R Hills 9
20 WHO GOES THERE T M Jones 8 9 ... R Perham 6
– 20 declared –

BETTING: 5-1 Sakha, 6-1 Penmayne, 7-1 Eyeballs Out, Polar Fair, 8-1 Dolphinelle, 14-1 Copplestone, Enfilade, Lover's Leap, 16-1 others

FORM VERDICT

High numbers could well have an advantage with the stalls on the far rails and a speculative vote is given to the speedily-bred *VILLAGE HOP*. *Polar Fair and Pennymane are others* to consider from high draws, while Sakha would be another major player if able to overcome her middle berth.

7.35 COTES DU RHONE HANDICAP (CLASS E) £5,000 added 7f SKY

1 -60000 VICTORY TEAM (26) (D) G Balding 6 10 0 ... S Drowne 10
2 33-600 HEVER GOLF ROCKET (32) T J Naughton 4 9 11 Paul Eddery 11
3 4-1351 KWEILO (14) (D) J W Payne 4 9 10 ... G Carter 7
4 6543-0 O' HIGGINS (34) D Morris 3 9 8 ... M Tebbutt 12
5 00-123 ZIMIRI (18) J Toller 4 9 5 ... S Sanders 6
6 200005 KINGS HARMONY (41) (D) B Pearce 5 9 5 ... O Urbina 2
7 04-000 ZELDA ZONK (12) (CD) B Meehan 5 9 4 ... W R Swinburn 15
8 -10530 SPEEDY CLASSIC (56) (D) M Heaton-Ellis 9 9 4 ... A Clark 17
9 062-00 IMPULSIF (23) (D) Mrs A King 4 9 4 ... N Day 13
10 151520 ROBELLION (37) (D) Mrs L Stubbs 7 9 4 ... Dane O'Neill 4
11 0-0001 DARYABAD (6) (D) R McGhin 6 9 4 (6ex) ... R Cochrane 1 B
12 504010 BOLD SPRING (12) (D) R Hannon 4 9 2 ... R Hughes 5
13 000600 RAINBOW RAIN (18) S Dow 4 9 2 ... T Quinn 8
14 152044 SCATHEBURY (9) (D) K Burke 5 9 0 ... N Callan (7) 16
15 23-604 SAMARA SONG (12) (D) I Williams 5 8 13 ... T Sprake 3
16 -00004 MATOAKA (19) V Soane 4 8 13 ... G Duffield 9
17 02-26P INDIAN BLAZE (82) D Elsworth 4 8 13 ... A Daly (3) 14
– 17 declared –

BETTING: 11-2 Kweilo, 13-2 Daryabad, 7-1 Zimiri, 8-1 Kings Harmony, Samara Song, Matoaka, 10-1 Victory Team, Hever Golf Rocket, Speedy Classic, Scathebury, 12-1 others

FORM VERDICT

A highly competitive event in which a serious case can be made for any number of the participants. A narrow vote is given to KWEILO after his impressive success at Epsom last *time, although it would be no surprise whatsoever if Scathebury* or Matoaka were to be involved in the finish.

8.05 CITY INDUSTRIAL SUPPLIES HANDICAP (C) £8,000 1m 2f SKY

1 2453/0 ALKATEB (5) Miss G Kelleway 6 10 0 ... P Robinson 11
2 2132-4 INFATUATION (15) (D) Lady Herries 5 9 12 ... R Cochrane 14
3 15000- PRAIRIE FALCON (257) B Hills 4 9 9 ... J D Smith (3) 7
4 321-00 MONITOR (21) (D) H Cecil 4 9 9 ... W Ryan 1
5 5-6225 SECRET SPRING (FR) (10) P Hedger 6 9 8 ... T Quinn 3
6 0-3336 FAHS (5) (D) G Lewis 6 9 6 ... A Clark 2
7 616103 BEND WAVY (4) T Caldwell 6 9 4 ... J F Egan 4
8 6-1053 *PELAGOS (FR) (32) R Charlton 3 9 1 ... W R Swinburn 10*
9 44-154 AMENDIA (FR) (44) S Woods 4 8 13 ... N Day 6
10 0-0532 FAMILY MAN (18) J Fanshawe 5 8 11 ... D Harrison 8
11 030 PACIFYC (37) W Muir 3 8 9 ... Martin Dwyer 9
12 00033- HARDY DANCER (352) (C) G L Moore 6 8 8 Candy Morris 13
13 013330 TALLULAH BELLE (2) (C) (D) N Littmoden 5 8 2 ... D O'Donohoe 12
14 00-050 *MUTADARRA (19) (D) W Musson 5 7 13 ... M Henry 5*
– 14 declared –

BETTING: 6-1 Secret Spring, 7-1 Infatuation, Bend Wavy, Tallulah Belle, 8-1 Fahs, Pelagos, 10-1 Family Man, 12-1 others

FORM VERDICT

Infatuation and Pelagos should both run well, but SECRET SPRING is preferred. He has done all his Flat winning to date at a mile, but gets this longer trip fine (and, indeed, is a 2m winner over hurdles) and deserves a change of luck.

8.35 CITY EVENING MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3YO 1m 4f

1 023 CORELLI (23) (BF) Sir M Stoute 9 0 ... W R Swinburn 3
2 5 EMINENCE GRISE (85) H Cecil 9 0 ... W Ryan 2
3 06 HELISMAD (28) M Haynes 9 0 ... D Biggs 4
4 2502 *MURGHEM* (11) B Hanbury 9 0 ... G Hind 6
5 0 SUGAR DANCE (28) M Heaton-Ellis 9 0 ... A Clark 1
6 REGAL BRIDGET D Elsworth 8 9 ... S Drowne 7
7 0 WINTER PAGEANT (28) L Cumani 8 9 ... R Ffrench 5
– 7 declared –

BETTING: 7-4 Corelli, 5-2 Winter Pageant, 3-1 Murghem, 5-1 Eminence Grise, 20-1 Regal Bridget, 50-1 others

FORM VERDICT

Winter Pageant *is one to keep an eye on, but she may still* need time and a longer trip, and CORELLI looks the bet. This 1m4f looks tailor-made for him, and he is taken to gain an overdue first success.

9.05 SURREY RACING HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added 1m

1 1800- BYZANTIUM (327) (CD) Lord Huntingdon 4 9 10 R Perham 12
2 -34520 SAFFRON ROSE (21) (D) *M Blanshard* 4 9 10 Dale Gibson 3
3 600000 MUHTAFEL (6) (D) M Quinn 4 9 10 ... G Carter 14 V
4 603013 PERICLES (14) Miss G Kelleway 4 9 10 ... W R Swinburn 15
5 040 ACIDANTHERA (25) J Fanshawe 3 9 7 ... D Harrison 7
6 20-000 *RON'S PET (54) R Hannon 3 9 3 ... R Hughes 5*
7 4422-0 OCEAN PARK (9) (D) Lady Herries 7 9 2 ... A Clark 6
8 600030 SOOTY TERN (13) (CD) J M Bradley 11 8 9 ... R Ffrench 4
9 0420-2 SMARTER CHARTER (41) (D) Mrs L Stubbs 5 8 7 T Sprake 11
10 0000-5 DESERT TIME (12) (D) C Horgan 8 8 7 ... C Lowther 10
11 136065 JIBEREEN (11) (D) (BF) P Howling 8 8 7 ... Paul Eddery 8
12 30-550 MASSYAR SEVENTEEN (25) H Collingridge 4 8 6 T Quinn 1
13 440/00 TYPHOON LAD (19) S Dow 5 8 3 ... P Doe (5) 9
14 50/030 I RECALL (13) P Hayward 7 7 10 ... A McCarthy (3) 13 V
15 665602 FANCY DESIGN (9) P Mitchell 5 7 10 ... Aimee Cook (5) 2 V
– 15 declared –

Minimum weight: 7st 10lb. True handicap weights: I Recall 7st 6lb, Fancy Design 6st 11lb
BETTING: 5-1 Pericles, 7-1 Smarter Charter, 8-1 Saffron Rose, Acidanthera, Sooty Tern, Jibereen, 10-1 Byzantium, Ron's Pet, Massyar Seventeen, 12-1 others

FORM VERDICT

SMARTER CHARTER is handicapped to go well and, with *the ground to suit*, should be thereabouts. There are plenty of dangers with Pericles an obvious one.

FOLKESTONE

HYPERION

2.20 Lightning Blaze 2.50 Dim Ofan 3.25 Glowing 4.00 Frankie Fair 4.30 *Sihafi* 5.05 *Arzani* 5.35 Rapid Reliance

GOING: Good (Good to Firm in places).
STALLS: Straight course - stands side; round course - outside
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High best 5f, 6f & 1m 2f.
■ Right-hand, undulating course with a run-in of one furlong.
■ Course is 6m W of town off A20. Westenhanger station (service from London, Charing Cross) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Club & Tattersalls £10: Picnic Park £4 per car plus £4 per occupant. Accompanied under-16s free. CAR PARK: Free.
■ LEADING TRAINERS: R Hannon 16-130 (12.3%), J Pearce 11-61 (18%), M Channon 11-90 (12.2%), S C Williams 10-43 (23.3%).
■ LEADING JOCKEYS: Paul Eddery 19-103 (18.4%), Dane O'Neill 15-114 (13%), T Sprake 12-83 (14.5%), A Whelan 10-71 (14.1%).
■ FAVOURITES: 177-515 (34.4%)
VISORED FIRST TIME: Eric The King (5.05).
LONG DISTANCE RUNNER: Sihafi (4.30) sent 296 miles.

2.20 COWDREY NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2YO 5f

1 4252 PISCES LAD (25) S Dow 9 7 ... P Doe (5) 1
2 1565 ENTHAISINGH (42) (CD) C Dwyer 8 13 ... F Lynch 5
3 450261 *DOLLY DAY DREAM (6) K Ivory 8 12 (7ex) ... Martin Dwyer 4 V*
4 624 ZOLA POWER (15) G L Moore 8 11 ... S Whitworth 7
5 03101 LIGHTNING BLAZE (12) (CD) P McEntee 8 7 J Gotobed (7) 6
6 446 DOUBLE CHOICE (26) R Hannon 8 5 ... Dane O'Neill 2
7 400 SHABAASH (61) G Lewis 7 13 ... A McCarthy (3) 3
– 7 declared –

BETTING: 3-1 Double Choice, *9-2 Zola Power, 5-1 Pisces Lad, 6-1 Dolly* Day Dream, Lightning Blaze, Shabaash, 7-1 Enthaisingh

FORM VERDICT

DOUBLE CHOICE makes plenty of appeal here. Admittedly, she doesn't have a great draw if the field switches to the far side. *However, she's a good-looker getting weight from* some very ordinary rivals

2.50 ST LAWRENCE MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (F) £3,000 added 2YO 6f

1 02 JACK GOODMAN (25) J S Moore 8 7 ... P P Murphy (3) 2
2 0 SEVEN STARS (9) M Tompkins 8 7 ... D Biggs 7
3 COPYFORCE GIRL Miss B Sanders 8 5 ... A Clark 8
4 50 GOLDEN SYRUP (16) R Hannon 8 5 ... Dane O'Neill 4
5 20 SAMPOWER STAR (19) R Simpson 8 4 ... S Drowne 1
6 5 ALMAYMONA (11) S Mellor 8 2 ... C Rutter 3
7 00 CLOON CREE (16) D Cosgrove 8 2 ... N Adams 6 V
8 65 DIM OFAN (16) B Palling 8 2 ... T Sprake 11
9 JUST FOR YOU JANE T J Naughton 8 2 ... Paul Eddery 5
10 0 WHATTA MADAM (14) G L Moore 8 2 ... F Norton 10
11 6 PRESELI MAGIC (21) D Haydn Jones 7 13 ... N Kennedy 9
– 11 declared –

BETTING: 7-4 Sampower Star, 5-1 Golden Syrup, 7-1 Jack Goodman, 8-1 *Almaymona, Preseli Magic, 10-1 Seven Stars, Dim Ofan, 16-1 others*

FORM VERDICT

Sampower Star is a good thing if he can reproduce his Ascot form, but there has to be slight doubt over him given that he has faster ground and what could be a moderate draw to contend with. *DIM OFAN could represent a bit of value. From a* yard going very well, she steps down a grade here and could have the best of the draw if switched to the far side.

3.25 GODFREY EVANS MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (E) £4,000 added 6f

1 50 *DURST (135) Lord Huntingdon 4 8 13 ... Aimee Cook (5) 1*
2 223- LOCH LAIRD (329) M Madgwick 3 8 12 ... R Cochrane 2
3 36-046 LONG ISLAND (14) K Ivory 3 8 12 ... Martin Dwyer 4 V
4 450 THATS LIFE (6) T Mills 3 8 12 ... A Whelan 3
5 03 GLOWING (12) J Fanshawe 3 8 7 ... D Harrison 5
– 5 declared –

BETTING: 15-8 Glowing, 3-1 Loch Laird, 7-2 Thats Life, 9-2 Long Island, 8-1 Durst

FORM VERDICT

GLOWING looks the safest option. She looked on the up under these conditions here last time and her stable remains in *smashing form.*

4.00 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,000 added 3YO 7f

1 050-66 MAGIC SPRING (7) K McAuliffe 9 7 ... M Fenton 11
2 00-465 THE ARTFUL DODGER (11) R Williams 9 5 D Griffiths (3) 5
3 *0-03 QUEEN'S HAT (13) (BF) B Hanbury 9 4 ... G Hind 12*
4 0-0011 FRANKIE FAIR (23) (CD) G L Moore 9 4 ... N Callan (7) 14
5 -00405 TAJMIL (16) D Morris 9 3 ... K Darley 9
6 215002 RED PEPPER (11) P Howling 9 2 ... Paul Eddery 7
7 053326 ARBENIG (11) (D) B Palling 9 0 ... D Sweeney 10
8 606-2 NEWALA (7) W Haggas 8 12 ... R Cochrane 4
9 0-0000 CHIEF BLADE (28) (CD) Miss G Kelleway 8 11 ... J F Egan 13
10 136003 SHE'S A GEM (12) (D) Mrs N Macauley 8 9 ... R Havlin (3) 3
11 40000 *LUCKY ME (14) M Tompkins 8 6 ... D Biggs 1*
12 -40500 BALACLAVA (25) A McNae 8 8 ... T Sprake 6
13 40-000 PRINCESS OLIVIA (9) M Ryan 8 6 ... P McCabe 15
14 00-40 ZIELANA GORA (16) C Dwyer 8 6 ... F Lynch 8
15 0-00 IMPERATOR (27) Lady Herries 8 6 ... D Harrison 16
16 0-6300 TAZKIYA (13) C Benstead 8 6 ... A Clark 2
– 16 declared –

BETTING: 9-2 Frankie Fair, 5-1 Queen's Hat, 7-1 Newala, 8-1 Tajmil, Arbenig, 10-1 The Artful Dodger, Red Pepper, 14-1 others

FORM VERDICT

Although Frankie Fair cannot be ruled out despite a 9lb rise *up the handicap for her latest win at Brighton, the one to take the eye here is* ARBENIG, *who trotted up in a Salisbury claimer earlier in the season, has run well in the main since, and hails from a stable coming right back to form.*

4.30 SANDGATE MOTORS SKODA OCTAVIA *HANDICAP (D) £5,000 added 5f*

1 035-12 RESIST THE FORCE (10) (C) C Cyzer 8 10 0 ... K Darley 11
2 -00104 GOLDEN POUND (14) Miss G Kelleway 6 9 12 ... T Sprake 4 B
3 330001 THAT MAN AGAIN (12) (CD) S Williams 6 9 11 D Williams (7) 1 B
4 502530 NOBALINO (43) (D) Mrs N Macauley 4 9 5 ... P McCabe 3 V
5 061005 LONGWICK LAD (13) (D) W Muir 5 9 4 ... D Harrison 5
6 351452 BRAMBLE BEAR (12) (D) M Blanshard 4 9 4 ... D Sweeney 10
7 042214 FACILE TIGRE (12) (D) (BF) S Dow 3 9 1 ... P Doe (5) 8
8 0-0055 PURPLE FLING (29) (C) A McNae 7 9 0 ... F Lynch 12
9 050100 VILLAGE NATIVE (9) (C) (D) K C-Brown 5 8 13 ... A Clark 2 B
10 0-6644 TEAR WHITE (12) (D) T Mills 4 8 10 ... A Whelan 9
11 001050 FORGOTTEN TIMES (19) K Ivory 4 8 5 ... Martin Dwyer 6 V
12 003121 SIHAFI (2) (D) D Nicholls 5 8 0 (6ex) ... A McCarthy (3) 7
– 12 declared –

BETTING: 9-2 Sihafi, 6-1 Resist The Force, Bramble Bear, 7-1 Facile Tigre, 8-1 That Man Again, Longwick Lad, Tear White, 10-1 others

FORM VERDICT

Sihafi is on a roll and deserves to start favourite, but RESIST THE FORCE, nibbled at in the Stewards' Cup betting last week, is the choice. He looks better than ever at the age of eight and, with the *aid of a* good draw, he can come fast and late to continue his fine run.

5.05 *BRIDGE SELLING STAKES (CLASS G)* £2,800 added 1m 1f 149yds

1 416550 HAROLDON (14) (D) B Palling 9 9 12 ... T Sprake 13
2 002000 ACTION JACKSON (6) (D) B McMath 6 9 6 ... G Bardwell 10
3 305050 ARZANI (32) (D) D Cosgrove 7 9 6 ... M Rimmer 9 V
4 286504 DOUBLE *RUSH (7) (C) (D) T Mills 6 9 6 ... A Whelan 4*
5 00 ERIC THE KING (14) R Simpson 7 9 6 ... M Gallagher 5 V
6 0/0000 GET TOUGH (12) (D) E Wheeler 5 9 6 ... S Carson (7) 12
7 000-00 RUNIC SYMBOL (44) (D) M Blanshard 7 9 6 ... D Sweeney 15
8 1060-0 THE GREEN GREY (35) W Muir 4 9 6 ... Martin Dwyer 3
9 0-0060 TINKLERS FOLLY (20) G Margarson 6 9 6 ... F Lynch 1
10 0-0530 AEGEAN BREEZE (15) R Flower 3 8 9 ... K Darley 8
11 0-005 DOCKLAND EXECUTIVE (25) B McMath 3 8 9 Declan O'Shea 11
12 0-3500 AFTER DAWN (14) Mrs P Dutfield 3 8 4 ... A McCarthy (3) 6
13 000-06 FLEET LADY (25) Mrs P Dutfield 3 8 4 ... R Smith (7) 2
14 000 LUISIANA LADY (16) B Hanbury 3 8 4 ... J Stack 7
15 05-500 SPREE ROSE (14) K Cunningham-Brown 3 8 4 ... M Henry 14
– 15 declared –

BETTING: 5-1 Arzani, 11-2 The Green Grey, 6-1 Haroldon, 13-2 Action Jackson, 8-1 Double Rush, Tinklers Folly, 10-1 Aegean Breeze, 12-1 others

FORM VERDICT

With so little form to go on stakes must be kept to a minimum, but HAROLDON is capable when in the mood and, with Sprake back on board, looks set to return to form.

5.35 LESLIE AMES MEMORIAL HANDICAP (E) £4,000 fillies & mares 1m 4f

1 621140 RASPBERRY SAUCE (46) (D) C Cyzer 4 10 0 ... K Darley 1
2 -04144 ADESTE FIDELES (14) (CD) M Bell 3 9 10 ... M Fenton 4
3 350-45 LATIN NEXUS (23) P Cole 3 9 8 ... A Whelan 5
4 4-0000 RHEIN LADY (25) R Rowe 4 8 12 ... W J O'Connor 3
5 015652 WINGS AWARDED (20) M Channon 3 8 10 ... A Mackay 2
6 014560 KIKA (11) (D) J Bridger 5 8 1 ... G Bardwell 6
7 0-4004 RAPID RELIANCE (16) R Ingram 3 8 1 ... Aimee Cook (5) 7
– 7 declared –

BETTING: 9-4 Wings Awarded, 3-1 Adeste Fideles, 9-2 Raspberry Sauce, 6-1 Latin Nexus, 13-2 Rapid Reliance, 12-1 Kika, 16-1 Rhein Lady

FORM VERDICT

RHEIN LADY ran an encouraging race last time at Lingfield, and if she is as effective on this faster ground, she could oblige *at a decent price.* Adeste Fideles and Rapid Reliance look her main dangers.

WORCESTER

HYPERION

6.50 Merciless Cop 7.20 Look In The Mirror 7.50 Zaitoon 8.20 Sylvan Sabre 8.50 Daraydan 9.20 Did You Know

GOING: Good (Good to Firm in places).
■ Left-hand course, level with long straights, easy turns and a one furlong run-in.
■ Course is on the A443 by the River Severn. Worcester (Foregate St) station 1m. ADMISSION: Members £13; Tattersalls £10; Course £5.50 (OAPs £2.75). CAR PARK: Free; picnic area parking £3.
■ LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 45-131 (34.4%), D Nicholson 27-74 (36.5%), K Bailey 20-77 (26%), P Bowen 13-74 (17.6%)
■ LEADING JOCKEYS: C Llewellyn 22-134 (16.4%), N Williamson 16-99 (16.2%), R Johnson 16-110 (14.5%), W Marston 16-154 (10.4%).
■ FAVOURITES: 229-608 (37.7%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Oliver's Secret (7.20), Bavario (visored, 7.20), Sharp Embrace (visored, 7.20), Top Shelf (visored, 8.20), Scarrots (8.20).

6.50 HARPLEY NOVICE HURDLE (E) £2,900 added 2m 4f SKY

1 4431l- MERCILESS COP (40) (CD) Mrs M Jones 4 11 9 ... C Llewellyn B
2 3005-P AUTUMN BLUNDER (32) A Carroll 6 10 12 ... A Scholes (7)
3 *002-0 CAMDEN FELLOW (11) P Eccles 5 10 12 ... T J Murphy*
4 0FFU0- GUNNER SID (91) B Preece 7 10 12 ... R Johnson B
5 PP23F- KARLIN'S QUEST (45) R Frost 7 10 12 ... J Frost
6 0025-2 MONTICELLO (18) M Muggeridge 6 10 12 ... D Creech (7)
7 22 ROKER JOKER (10) R Peacock 7 10 12 ... W Marston
8 0P00-3 THE MILLSTONE (10) C Jones 7 10 12 ... S Curran
9 4 WALLABY BLOWED (32) N Henderson 6 10 7 ... J R Kavanagh
– 9 declared –

BETTING: 4-6 Merciless Cop, 9-2 Roker Joker, 8-1 Monticello, 10-1 Camden Fellow, Wallaby Blowed, 20-1 Autumn Blunder, 25-1 Gunner Sid, Karlin's Quest, 50-1 The Millstone

FORM VERDICT

Essentially a three-horse race. There could be improvement in Roker Joker, and Wallaby Blowed, albeit from a top stable, is an unknown quantity over timber, but MERCILESS COP is looking quite a useful under these conditions and may well defy his double penalty.

7.20 PERSHORE NOVICE H'CAP HURDLE (E) £2,900 3m SKY

1 P3033- OLIVER'S SECRET (48) (D) M Pipe 8 11 10 ... A P McCoy B
2 6411-3 HIGH SUMMER (25) C Mann 8 11 10 ... J Magee (3)
3 424PF- BAVARIO (F27) D Williams 5 11 8 ... Mr R Forristal (7) V
4 3521-F *LOOK IN THE MIRROR (32) (BF) N T-Davies 7 11 2 C Llewellyn*
5 64-212 AMERCIUS (11) R Simpson 6 11 0 ... Mr J Owen (7)
6 23400- SEA TARTH (168) P Bowen 7 10 13 ... N Williamson
7 3424-4 STEP IN LINE (18) (D) R Frost 6 10 12 ... J Frost
8 /P01-4 POWDER MONKEY (12) T Needham 8 10 9 ... Mrs C Ford
9 2303-F PROFESSOR PAGE (32) C Mann 8 10 6 ... D Gallagher B
10 0660F- NIRVANA PRINCESS (44) B Preece 6 10 0 ... R Johnson
11 P66PU- NO MORALS (59) V Dartnall 7 10 0 ... J Culloty
12 P00-5P SHARP EMBRACE (4) M Pipe 5 10 0 ... G Supple (5) V
13 0/P0-6 JOLSON (18) C Barwell 7 10 0 ... P Henley (3)
14 FPPP3- PRIDEWOOD GOLDING (52) (D) C Price 11 10 0 ... K Hibbert (7)
15 *P00P5- INNER SNU (48) (D) N Mitchell 9 10 0 ... Sophie Mitchell*
16 0500/ ROCKY ROMANCE (1755) R Curtis 11 10 0 ... J Leech
– 16 declared –

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: No Morals 9st 11lb, Sharp Embrace 9st 8lb, Jolson 9st 7lb, Pridewood Golding 9st 6lb, Inner Snu 9st 5lb, Rocky Romance 9st 4lb
BETTING: 9-2 Oliver's Secret, 13-2 High Summer, 7-1 Look In The Mirror, Amercius, 10-1 Sea Tarth, Step In Line, Powder Monkey, 12-1 others

FORM VERDICT

Few that can be fancied in a moderate affair. The step up to 3m could suit High Summer, while Look In The Mirror must enter calculations if his latest poor effort is ignored. But perhaps the most interesting candidate is AMERICUS, whose fourth here a year ago worked out well (second, third and fifth won next time out) and who has been in good form over fences

7.50 BICKNELL VAUXHALL HANDICAP CHASE (F) £3,500 2m 7f 110yds SKY

1 4443-P COOLREE (21) J King 10 12 0 ... T J Murphy
2 P34P2- JACOB'S WIFE (47) (C) P R Webber 8 11 7 ... J A McCarthy
3 3231-1 ROYAL BARGE (18) (D) P Bowen 8 11 5 ... W Marston
4 66/3-P ARMALA (21) Mrs I McKie 13 11 4 ... S Curran
5 1055-3 COMMANCHE CREEK (11) (C) (D) M Pipe 8 11 0 A P McCoy B
6 P11/P- MISTER GOODGUY (398) (D) (BF) R Curtis 9 10 10 J Leech
7 34363- NESCAF (NZ) (44) R Rowe 8 10 10 ... P Hide B
8 6442-3 ZAITOON (21) (BF) D Nicholson 7 10 5 ... R Johnson
9 U0P-0P CYRILL HENRY (11) Simon Earle 9 10 0 ... B Powell
10 F4P2-U JUST ANDY (37) B Preece 7 10 0 ... V Slattery
– 10 declared –

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Cyrill Henry 9st 9lb, Just Andy 8st 11lb
BETTING: 9-4 Royal Barge, 9-2 Jacob's Wife, Zaitoon, 11-2 Nescaf, 7-1 Commanche Creek, 12-1 Coolree, 14-1 Armala, 16-1 others

FORM VERDICT

Royal Barge is capable of improving on his hurdles form back *over fences. He lacks experience over the bigger obstacles*, however, and there could be value in MISTER GOODGUY, who has gone well fresh in the past and is from a stable which has a sound record with horses reappearing after a lay-off

8.20 RADIO WYVERN HANDICAP HURDLE (E) £2,900 2m SKY

1 42U6U- ROBERT'S TOY (91) (CD) M Pipe 7 12 0 ... C Maude B
2 6234-1 OUT RANKING (FR) (5) (CD) M Pipe 6 11 4 (7ex) A P McCoy
3 3305-3 SCARROTS (5) S Gollings 4 10 7 ... D Gallagher B
4 304F/6 ZINE LANE (12) (D) J O'Shea 6 10 6 ... Michael Brennan
5 40P4-0 SYLVAN SABRE (21) (D) D Shaw 9 10 2 ... R Hobson (7)
6 0P2-03 APACHE PARK (4) (D) A Streeter 5 10 0 ... T Eley
7 6E5- TOP SHELF (F2) P Bevan 4 10 0 ... W Worthington V
– 7 declared –

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Apache Park 9st 13lb, Top Shelf 9st
BETTING: 5-4 Out Ranking, 9-2 Robert's Toy, Scarrots, Apache Park, 10-1 Top Shelf, 20-1 Sylvan Sabre, 25-1 Zine Lane

FORM VERDICT

OUT RANKING returned to something like her old form when making all at Market Rasen and, despite a penalty, is still 16lb lower than her highest winning mark (achieved in late 1996)

8.50 BROCKHAMPTON NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 added 2m

1 0/5-P3 BATTLE AIR (NZ) (11) G Edwards 10 10 12 ... D Salter (3)
2 5103-P DAHIYAH (11) (D) D Williams 7 10 12 ... R Johnson
3 11400- DARAYDAN (112) (D) (BF) M Pipe 6 10 12 ... A P McCoy
4 /600-0 MOON-FROG (18) Miss Z Davison 11 10 12 ... C Maude
5 303P-3 PERCY BRAITHWAITE (25) (D) Miss P Whittle 6 10 12 S Durack (3)
6 030-02 SAILEP (FR) (11) R Hodges 6 10 12 ... T Dascombe
7 20/3F- SIDANORA (183) P R Webber 6 10 12 ... R Garritty
8 5U2P/ HENNERWOOD OAK (478) R J Price 8 10 7 ... M Griffiths (5)
9 443P3- THE LAST MISTRESS (46) G H Jones 11 10 7 ... B Fenton
– 9 declared –

BETTING: 1-2 Daraydan, 11-2 Sidanora, 10-1 Battle Air, Percy Braithwaite, Sailep, 16-1 Dahiyah, 33-1 others

FORM VERDICT

DARAYDAN, ideally served by a stiffer test of stamina, could hardly start off at a lower level over fences. Percy Braithwaite may be the best alternative for each-way backers.

9.20 WORCESTER STANDARD OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m

1 1 MR COOL (18) (D) M Pipe 4 11 6 ... A P McCoy
2 1- DID YOU KNOW (49) (CD) C Barwell 5 11 6 ... B Fenton
3 04- *PENINSULA BOY* (65) P Bowen 5 11 4 ... W Marston
4 0- PRIMITIVE CHARLES (65) S Clark 5 11 4 ... Miss R Clark (5)
5 RUFIUS D Nicholson 5 11 4 ... R Johnson
6 1: WICKED IMP (480) V Dartnall 6 11 4 ... R Massey (3)
7 00 BACKSCRATCHER (18) S Gollings 4 11 1 ... B Powell
8 0 BLUE CHIEFTAIN (32) L Grassick 4 11 1 ... V Slattery
9 GEORGIC BLAZE G Ham 4 11 1 ... S Burrough
10 0 JUST DESMOND (11) R Simpson 4 11 1 ... Mr J Owen (7)
11 0'0- PRINCESS HELEN (187) R J Price 5 10 13 ... S Durack (3)
12 2F40- SPEEDY NATIVE (87) Simon Earle 5 10 13 ... C Maude
13 TEENOMISS A Carroll 5 10 13 ... A Scholes (7)
14 ALMARY A D Smith 4 10 10 ... S Graham (7)
15 0 ARAMINTA (11) N J Pomfret 4 10 10 ... J Culloty
16 34 KEEP IKIS (18) S Gollings 4 10 10 ... D Gallagher
17 TROPWEN T Wall 4 10 10 ... Gary Lyons
– 17 declared –

BETTING: 7-4 Mr Cool, 7-2 Did You Know, 4-1 Rufius, 7-1 Peninsula Boy, Keep Ikis, 14-1 Wicked Imp, 20-1 Teenomiss, 25-1 others

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هكذا من الاصل

Grand gains for a couple of wannabes

BY RICHARD EDMONDSON
at Newmarket

WANNABE GRAND was Jeremy Noseda's first Group winner here yesterday, but the perverse might suggest that the real trainer behind the horse was Saeed Bin Suroor.

Noseda was the original assistant when the Godolphin enterprise launched in 1993. During his two-year involvement, the boys in blue scooped 17 Group One prizes with the help of animals such as Lammtarra, Balanchine and Classic Cliche.

However, by the time Noseda left, after the 1995 Breeders' Cup, there was talk of disenchantment in the camp, that he was tired of being the *de facto* trainer, while Bin Suroor took the credit. It would be a nice to imagine that the Newmarket-domiciled Arab had given his old colleague a hand in yesterday's Cherry Hinton Stakes success.

Post-Godolphin, Noseda went to train in California, where he managed 20 months and a Group winner via Chequer at Bay Meadows. "I knew that I would come back from America one day," he said. "I found it monotonous over there. English racing is the greatest racing in the world. Maybe the prize-money is not so great, but there are so many other good things about it. This is the racing that I love and it was always my ambition to train in England. There is a romantic side to it."

Noseda returned to his homeland for this season after purchasing Paul Kelleway's Shalfleet yard on Newmarket's Bury Road. His first runner was a winner, and appropriately enough, considering his tutelage, it was on the sand. Nautical Warning won an apprentice race at Lingfield in January.

Nine further winners have followed and yesterday came the yard's biggest day to date. It may not have been the greatest Cherry Hinton, a race which has seen the regal presences of Harayir, Sayyedati, Diminuendo, Chimes Of Freedom, Forest Flower and Magic Of Life brought before us in the past, but that will not have troubled Noseda.

Much of this contest was dominated by Spirit Willing in the centre and Pipalong on the rails, but when the former swerved left in apparent search of some corporate hospitality another presence arrived. Wannabe Grand, an 11-1 chance, surged through for a length and a half success. "This is huge," the trainer said. "I'm enjoying it. There's plenty of pressure, maybe most of it put on by myself. This is a great start but I want things to get even bigger.

RICHARD EDMONDSON
Nap: Cable Media Boy
(Newmarket 4.15)
NB: Sheer Viking
(Newmarket 2.35)

"It's a big day and it's what I've dreamt about doing. Hopefully, this is a start of a good career for her and a good career for myself, please God."

Mark Johnston has a few more scores on the door and he further increased his Group-race collection when Fruits Of Love captured the Princess Of Wales's Stakes.

This too was perhaps not the best running of a race which was founded in 1894 and immediately taken by Derby winners Isinglass and Ladas. Petoski and Carroll House later went on from here to achieve high station.

Fruits Of Love's victory was merited, however, for a colt who was struck down by a broken pelvis just last autumn. "I was in Kentucky at the time and I can't remember getting a worse phone call," Johnston said. "They woke me up at five in the morning to tell me he had pulled up lame on the gallops."

This victory at least brought to our attention Mick Doyle, the colt's owner and former deep sea trawlerman. He had fishes on his tie. "All my horses have love in the name," he said, "because I'm the most romantic man in all of Ireland."

The July meeting is traditionally the point for half-time oranges in the Flat season. The body racing trots down the tunnel after the Eclipse Stakes and when it returns there are several young and talented substitutes in the team.

The first batch of promising two-year-olds ran out to Newmarket's thunderfly swarms under overcast skies in the opener. Alhaarth and Mark Of Esteem fought out the finish to this contest three years ago, but there was not much conflict yesterday as Nimello powered through for a convincing win. "It's nice to know we've got a decent horse and now we'll give him plenty of time," Paul Cole, the winning trainer, said.

The bookmakers were not so reticent, and Coral immediately started its Derby book with a 25-1 quote about Nimello. They do like a laugh.

Wannabe Grand (Walter Swinburn) storms to victory in the Cherry Hinton Stakes at Newmarket yesterday *Julian Herbert/Allsport*

Cortona provides the French connection

BY SUE MONTGOMERY

ONE OF the features of France 98 has been the spoo-oo-ky number of cross-sport overlaps and parallels. Almost at the same moment that Vieri popped in the winner for Italy against Norway in Marseilles, his compatriot Luca Cumani was winning that afternoon's big race at Newmarket.

The following day Les Bleus scored against Paraguay in Lens and against Britain and Ireland, courtesy of Dream Well, at The Curragh. England were dogged in defeat at St Etienne and Wimbledon. The Dutch team winning in the Stade Velodrome and on the Centre Court. Who won the Eclipse Stakes on Saturday? Arsenal fanatic Frankie Dettori. Who scored the winner against Argentina? Gunners hero Denis Bergkamp.

There are no Croatian horses running at Newmarket this afternoon but there is a French one. And (all of the above notwithstanding) **Cortona** (3.40) has an excellent chance of flying le tricolore ahead of tonight's World Cup semi-final in St Denis.

The daughter of Caerleon will face 12 rivals in the day's feature, the Falmouth Stakes, a mile Group Two contest that brings together fillies of the Classic and older generations. Three-year-olds have outstandingly the best record - Gussy Marlowe in 1992 has been the only four-year-old winner in the past decade - and as as this year's bunch appear above-average anyway it seems pointless to look beyond them.

The race can offer an opportunity to an improver (like Caramba and Sensation) but more often provides compensation after a placing in a Group One (as to last year's winner Ryafan, and the likes of Niche, Magic Gleam, Inchmurrin and Meis El-Reem). Cortona – whose trainer Criquette Head sent over Sensation two years ago and whose Pescara ran so well yesterday – falls into the latter category, having chased home Zalaiyka in the French Guineas, with today's rival La Nuit Rose just behind her.

Cortona ran with less spirit when fourth in a Group Three two weeks later, but she is reportedly now back to her old self after a break of five weeks and some sun on her back.

With the Godolphin team in such sparkling form, the claims of La Nuit Rose – third in the Irish Guineas and fifth in the Coronation Stakes since her Longchamp effort – should not be wholly ignored. And she has a French name. But a bigger threat may come from two progressive fillies, Lady In Waiting – fourth in the Coronation on her seasonal debut – and Lovers Knot, a staying-on third in the Jersey Stakes.

But, however the high-class ladies fare in the Falmouth Stakes, the filly who may be the real star of the day comes from humbler origins. Lady Rockstar is going for her ninth successive win in the Duke Of Cambridge Handicap. No horse will get a better reception all week should she win, but it is her toughest task to date and the big colt **Hitman** (3.10) can spoil the party.

If the July Stakes, first run in 1786, does signpost a top-class horse it is, in the modern era, a sprinter. The last winner to progress to Group One glory in a subsequent season was 1985 winner Green Desert, successful at three in the July Cup. That one's close relation, **Bertolini** (2.35), can make amends for a disappointing fifth in the Coventry Stakes.

FIRST SHOW

Newmarket 3.10

Horse	C	H	L	S	T
Hitman	13-2	6-1	5-1	13-2	6-1
Kumatour	6-1	6-1	6-1	6-1	7-1
Lady Rockstar	7-1	13-2	8-1	13-2	6-1
River Beat	*7-1*	*8-1*	*8-1*	*8-1*	*7-1*
Mr Cahill	13-2	9-1	10-1	9-1	9-1
Kariyh	10-1	10-1	10-1	8-1	10-1
Rachaels North	*10-1*	*10-1*	*9-1*	*9-1*	*10-1*
Passionate Pursuit	12-1	10-1	12-1	12-1	10-1
Casino Captive	12-1	12-1	10-1	11-1	12-1
Moratorium	11-1	14-1	14-1	12-1	12-1
Raffaello	14-1	14-1	14-1	14-1	16-1
Captain's Log	20-1	14-1	16-1	16-1	16-1
Cloak Of Darkness	25-1	22-1	20-1	25-1	30-1
Hadayik	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1
Imshishway	33-1	28-1	25-1	33-1	33-1
Nisaba	66-1	66-1	66-1	66-1	66-1

Each way, a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3, 4
C Coral, H William Hill, L Ladbrokes, S Stanley, T Tote

Newmarket 3.40

Horse	C	H	L	S	T
Lovers Knot	9-2	5-1	9-2	5-1	4-1
Lady In Waiting	5-1	11-2	6-1	5-1	11-2
Cortona	7-1	13-2	6-1	13-2	7-1
La Nuit Rose	6-1	7-1	6-1	6-1	7-1
Digitalize	13-2	6-1	6-1	7-1	8-1
Beraysim	*8-1*	*8-1*	*9-1*	*15-2*	*7-1*
Equity Princess	9-1	15-2	9-1	8-1	8-1
Flawless	8-1	9-1	9-1	8-1	9-1
Wren	20-1	14-1	14-1	16-1	16-1
Reunion	16-1	20-1	22-1	25-1	20-1
Supercal	25-1	25-1	30-1	25-1	20-1
Lilli Claire	*25-1*	*25-1*	*25-1*	*25-1*	*25-1*
Yabint El Sultan	33-1	25-1	28-1	25-1	25-1

Each way, a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3
C Coral, H William Hill, L Ladbrokes, S Stanley, T Tote

HYPERION'S TV TIPS

NEWMARKET

2.05: SHALIMAR GARDEN, who shaped well when four lengths fourth to Silver Rhapsody over course and distance on her debut, can open her account. The consistent **Generous Rosi** looks the danger.

* * *

2.35: BERTOLINI, far from disgraced in finishing three lengths fifth to Red Sea in the Group Three Coventry Stakes over 6f at Royal Ascot, will relish the uphill finish here. **Sheer Viking** may pose most problems.

* * *

3.10: LADY ROCKSTAR, who made it eight on the bounce when trotting up by six lengths from Twin Time at Windsor, should again be hard to beat. **Kumatour** is the danger.

* * *

3.40: EQUITY PRINCESS, who ran Fizzed to half a length in the highly competitive Fern Hill Rated Handicap at the Ascot Heath fixture, could represent a bit of value stepping up in class. **Lovers Knot** should also go well.

NEWMARKET

HYPERION

2.05 Shalimar Garden
2.35 Bertolini
3.10 Lady Rockstar (nb)
3.40 EQUITY PRINCESS (nap)
4.15 Canyouhearme
4.45 Mujahid
5.20 Subtle Influence

GOING: Good to Firm (watering). **STALLS:** 2.05, 3.10 & 5.20 – stands side; remainder – inside. **DRAW ADVANTAGE:** None.
■ *Right-hand course with 1m 1m straight.*
■ Course is SW of town on A1304. Bus link from Cambridge and Newmarket stations. **ADMISSION:** Club £20 (half-price 16-25-year-olds); Grandstand & Paddock £11 (half-price 16-25-year-olds, OAPs); Family Enclosure £3. **CAR PARK:** Members £1; rest free.
■ **LEADING TRAINERS:** H Cecil 25-86 (29.1%), L Cumani 19-116 (16.4%), J Gosden 18-122 (14.8%), J Dunlop 17-117 (14.5%), R Hannon 16-179 (8.9%), D Loder 10-67 (14.9%).
■ **LEADING JOCKEYS:** Pat Eddery 40-185 (21.6%), L Dettori 36-180 (20%), R Hills 19-118 (16.1%), T Quinn 13-107 (12.1%), J Reid 12-101 (11.9%), W Ryan 12-124 (9.7%).
■ **FAVOURITES:** 187-522 (35.8%).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Subtle Influence (5.20), *High Intrigue (visored, 5.20)*

2.05 MORE O'FERRALL STAKES (CLASS D) £7,000 added 3YO 1m 2f Penalty Value £5,208 C4

1		BOREAS (Aston House Stud) L Cumani 9 0	O Urbina 3	—
2		DABUS (Lord Howard De Walden) H Cecil 9 0	A McGlone 1	—
3	0-222	GENEROUS ROSI (19) (BF) (Wafic Said) J Dunlop 9 0	Pat Eddery 6	104
4	00	IMPELLING (16) (D M Littlejohn and Partners) K Burke 9 0	J Fortune 2	75
5		MAN OF COURAGE (Maktoum Al Maktoum) E Dunlop 9 0	L Dettori 5	—
6	34	CHARROUX (27) (R E Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 8 9	J Reid 7	93
7	0	EMPLANE (84) (K Abdulla) H Cecil 8 9	W Ryan 8	93
8	4	SHALIMAR GARDEN (32) (Mrs John Magnier) L Cumani 8 9	R Ffrench 4	95

– 8 declared –

BETTING: 7-4 Generous Rosi, 9-4 Shalimar Garden, 5 Charroux, , 6-1 Emplane, 10-1 Dabus, 12-1 Boreas, Man of Courage, 33-1 Impelling.
1997: Light Programme 3 9 0 K Fallon evens fav (H Cecil) drawn (1) 12 ran

FORM GUIDE

Boreas: In The Wings colt, half-brother to a winner in France. Stable newcomers frequently better for the experience
Dabus: Kris colt out of middle-distance winner Licorne, by Sadler's Wells. Cecil yard debutants always a potent force when the market signals are right
Generous Rosi: Unlucky not to break the ice with three good efforts against high-class maidens. Had subsequent scorers Kadaka and Zalal just behind when two-length second to Olive The Twist over course and distance last time. Looks the one to beat
Impelling: *Looked capable of better when staying on steadily under tender handling* to be 12 lengths seventh of 17 to Temeraire at Windsor (1m), but more to do here
Man Of Courage: Nashwan colt, half-brother to 1m2f winner Bold Demand. Dettori booking looks significant and is worth a check in the market
Charroux: *Third of six* to Mondschein on Sandown debut (10f) but poor last of four to Putuna in Newbury Listed race. Clearly well thought of and bred to stay; do better
Emplane: Weak in market, staying-on seventh of 15, beaten eight lengths, to Sultana in ordinary 7f maiden here in April. Well-bred and should benefit from longer trip
Shalimar Garden: Easy to back and green when ran on well from slow start to be three and a half lengths fourth of 11 to Silver Rhapsody here (1m 2f mdn). *Will improve*

VERDICT: Shalimar Garden is likely to improve a good deal from her debut and should not be long getting off the mark (stablemate Slipper, who finished behind, has won since), *but it will take a good one* to beat **GENEROUS ROSI**. The half-brother to high-class miler Bin Rosie has run up against a series *of good maidens and appears to have* his best opportunity yet. Emplane could be the best of the remainder

2.35 *TNT INTERNATIONAL AVIATION JULY STAKES (Group 3) (CLASS A) £32,000 2YO 6f £18,260* C4

1	25	BERTOLINI (22) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 8 10	L Dettori 1	*102*
2	*1*	*BLACK AMBER (19) (CD) (M Tabor & Mrs J Magnier) N Callaghan 8 10*	*M J Kinane 6*	*87*
3	101	EL TANGO (12) (D) (Mrs Sheila Tucker) B Meehan 8 10	*W R Swinburn 4*	*85*
4	14	MUTAAHAB (CAN) (22) (D) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) E Dunlop 8 10	R Hills 3	103
5	6100	RED DELIRIUM (22) (D) (Terry Neill) R Hannon 8 10	R Hughes 5	*100*
6	132	SHEER VIKING (20) (R J Arculli) B Hills 8 10	M Hills 2	108

– 6 declared –

BETTING: 9-4 Bertolini, 5-2 Sheer Viking, 3-1 Mutaahab, 9-2 Black Amber, 14-1 El Tango, 20-1 Red Delirium
1997: Bold Fact 2 8 10 K Fallon evens fav (H Cecil) drawn (5) 8 ran

FORM GUIDE

Bertolini: $750,000 Danzig colt. Has encountered plenty of trouble in running both starts, beaten a neck in a Doncaster maiden and 3¼ lengths in the Coventry at Royal Ascot. A leading contender, if he gets a clear run
Black Amber: Ir34,000-guinea son of College Chapel. Second favourite, won 7-runner 6f Newmarket maiden by 2 lengths from Tomoe Gozen. Promising
El Tango: *Imposing* son of Risk Me. Won a maiden at Southwell and 6f novice stakes (by 3 lengths from Muqtarib) at Goodwood. *Towards rear in the Norfolk* at Royal Ascot
Mutaahab: Won Yarmouth novice stakes and ½ length in front of Bertolini when fourth (always in touch) on good to soft in the Coventry at Royal Ascot. Should improve
Red Delirium: Won 6f Goodwood maiden (good to firm) in May. Below form at Epsom next time before seventh (1¼ lengths *behind Mutaahab*) in the Coventry
Sheer Viking: Maiden winner here. Stayed on into second of 15 to Rossini in the Norfolk (5f, soft) at Royal Ascot. Had excuses when tried over 6f at York time before

VERDICT: There *is little between* these runners on form, notably between Mutaahab, **BERTOLINI** and Red Delirium who were *separated by 1¼ lengths in the Coventry* Stakes at Royal Ascot. Bertolini gets the vote given the traffic problems he suffered on that occasion. Sheer Viking is worth another chance at six furlongs. The Royal Ascot form *could be turned on its head* though given the much faster ground here.

3.10 INFLITE ENGINEERING DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE HANDICAP (CLASS B) £25,000 added 3YO 1m 2f Penalty Value £19,040 C4

1	110	CASINO CAPTIVE (19) (D) (R E Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 9 7	J Reid 10	*102*
2	251	HITMAN (34) (The Paper Boys) H Cecil 9 3	M J Kinane 5	*102*
3	2-2211	KUMATOUR (17) (D) (Paolo Riccardi) L Cumani 9 2	L Dettori 13	*91*
4	30111	RIVER BEAT (10) (D) (Grangewood Sales) M Tompkins 8 13	R Ffrench 1	*98*
5	16-255	HADAYIK (44) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) P Walwyn 8 13	W R Swinburn 15	*90*
6	0-413	MORATORIUM (33) (K Abdulla) H Cecil 8 12	W Ryan 16	*104*
7	4216	KARIYH (13) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) J Dunlop 8 12	R Hills 7	98
8	6-6311	RACHAELS NORTH (18) (P J Vela) R Armstrong 8 9	R Price 6	*113*
9	10-8	*MR CAHILL (14) (Maktoum Al Maktoum) Sir M Stoute 8 8*	Pat Eddery 12	*90*
10	-12203	RAFFAELLO (18) (Allevamento La Nuova Sbarra SRL) M Channon 8 8	T Quinn 8	*106*
11	856-10	CLOAK OF DARKNESS (22) (D) (Mohamed Suhail) R Hannon 8 3	J Carroll 4	*101*
12	11111	LADY ROCKSTAR (9) (D) (5 Star Partnership) M Ryan 8 3 (6ex)	R Winston (5) 3	*103*
13	0451	PASSIONATE PURSUIT (15) (D) (Mrs A M Upsdell) S Dow 8 0	D O'Donohoe 11	*78*
14	601051	CAPTAIN'S LOG (12) (Christopher Wright) M Bell 7 13	R Mullen (3) 14	*107*
15	10-005	IMSHISHWAY (8) (A S Helaissi) B Meehan 7 12	N Carlisle 9	104
16	3-115	NISABA (151) (D) (Raymond N R Auld) J S Moore 7 10	C Cogan (7) 2	*115*

– 16 declared –

Minimum weight: 7st 10lb. True handicap weight: Nisaba 6st 12lb.
BETTING: 6-1 Hitman, 13-2 Kumatour, 7-1 Lady Rockstar, 8-1 River Beat, 9-1 Mr Cahill, 10-1 Kariyh, Rachaels North, 12-1 Casino Captive, Passionate Pursuit, 14-1 Moratorium, Raffaello, 16-1 Captain's Log, 25-1 Cloak of darkness, Hadayik, 33-1 Imshishway, 66-1 Nisaba
1997: Memorise 3 8 12 K Fallon 5-1 fav (H Cecil) drawn (12) 16 ran

FORM GUIDE

Casino Captive: *Winner at Chester and Chepstow before respectable eighth of ten* to Royal Anthem at Ascot 1m 4f. Plenty to do at weights and possibly needs farther
Hitman: Benefited from switch to front-running when beating *Muhib* length and three-quarters in good time at Yarmouth (1m). Harshly treated on that ordinary form.
Kumatour: *Winner of minor race in Italy after beating useful Shalama a hard-earned* neck at Windsor (10f). Weighted up to best but stable has enviable handicap record
River Beat: Has moved 30lb up the handicap with four-timer and is 7lb higher than on latest comfortable win at Goodwood. Still on upgrade but this task will test him
Hadayik: One-time Oaks hope. Moderate *effort* when fifth of six to Casino Captive at Chepstow (11f) last time. Held by topweight on that form but shorter trip will suit
Moratorium: Ran his best race to be two heads third to Dower House at Epsom (10f) despite pulling hard, but form has taken a few knocks and he could be up against it
Kariyh: *Well weighted* but disappointed when sixth of seven, beaten seven lengths, to Hunters Of Brora at Newcastle (1m). Looks capable of better and longer trip may help
Rachaels North: Improved considerably when leading last strides to beat The Sandfly a short-head in slow-run race at Ascot. Reasonably treated and could go on
Mr Cahill: *Yarmouth winner last term.* Backward and tenderly ridden when 11 lengths sixth of eight to Spindrift at Salisbury (7f) on reappearance. Difficult to assess, from yard with good three-year-old handicap record and likely to improve considerably
Raffaello: Consistent and progressive sort who looked as though extra 2f would suit *when tenth in Britannia at Ascot. Same chance as Rachaels North on Ascot form*
Cloak Of Darkness: Form of his Windsor win over Mole Creek (10f) has taken a few knocks. Well beaten behind Plan-B at Ascot (1m) and probably has something to find
Lady Rockstar: 43lb higher than at start of eight-win sequence but still well treated on latest six-length win over Twin Time at Windsor. The one to beat
Passionate Pursuit: Off the mark when beating Hever Golf Passion at Lingfield (good to firm). Possible outsider on earlier fourth to Tajawuz on same course
Captain's Log: Seemed to relish mud when improving considerably to beat Samles three and a half lengths at Newcastle (9f). Contrasting conditions here
Imshishway: Winner on good to firm at Goodwood at two. Soft going against him this term but signs of return to form when fifth to Praetorian Gold at Chepstow. Dark horse
Nisaba: *Landed hat-trick on Lingfield all-weather* in January but out of action since her fifth of sixth to Frankie Ferrari there in February. Little sign of ability on turf

VERDICT: The amazing winning sequence of **LADY ROCKSTAR** *may not be over yet. A 6lb penalty scarcely covers the improvement she showed* when trotting up in a non-handicap at Windsor last week and she is one to keep on the right side while the ground is fast. **River Beat, Kariyh, Rachaels North, Mr Cahill** and **Imshishway** all appeal as likely improvers and possibilities in an otherwise open contest.

3.40 AMCOR FALMOUTH STAKES (Group 2) (CLASS A) £60,000 added 1m Penalty Value £34,300 C4

1	2-6615	LILLI CLAIRE (13) (C) (D) (C Leslie) D Elsworth 5 9 1	W R Swinburn 11	*102*
2	/10-20	REUNION (22) (Highclere Thoroughbred Racing Ltd) J Hills 4 9 1	R Hills 2	*108*
3	-52460	SUPERCAL (21) (The Caledonian Racing Society) D Elsworth 4 9 1	Pat Eddery 1	*106*
4	5-1140	YABINT EL SULTAN (18) (D) (G S D Imports Ltd) B McMahon 4 9 1	J Fortune 5	*100*
5	21	BERAYSIM (48) (Sheikh Ahmed Al Maktoum) M Jarvis 3 8 6	P Robinson 7	95
6	30-124	CORTONA (38) (G A Oldham) C Head (FR) 3 8 6	O Doleuze 12	*110*
7	112	DIGITALIZE (13) (D) (BF) (S Khaled) H Cecil 3 8 6	W Ryan 6	*110*
8	12-512	EQUITY PRINCESS (16) (D) (*Maktoum Al Maktoum*) *M Johnston 3 8 6*	*J Carroll 10*	*117*
9	1224-	FLAWLESS (283) (Cheveley Park Stud) Sir M Prescott 3 8 6	G Duffield 13	*106*
10	4121-4	LADY IN WAITING (21) (C) (Pegasus Racing Ltd) P Cole 3 8 6	T Quinn 8	117
11	1-335	LA NUIT ROSE (FR) (21) (Godolphin) Saeed bin Suroor 3 8 6	L Dettori 4	*116*
12	2-013	LOVERS KNOT (21) (Cheveley Park Stud) Sir M Stoute 3 8 6	J Reid 3	*105*
13	111-	WREN (269) (D) (Anglia Bloodstock Syndicate) Lord Huntingdon 3 8 6	O Peslier 9	*107*

– 13 declared –

BETTING: 9-2 Lovers Knot, 11-2 Lady In Waiting, 13-2 La Nuit Rose, 7-1 Cortona, Digitalize, 8-1 Beraysim, Equity Princess, 9-1 Flawless, 16-1 Wren, 20-1 Reunion, 25-1 Lili Clare, Supercal, Yabint El Sultan
1997: Ryafan 3 8 6 Pat Eddery 4-1 (J Gosden) drawn (3) 7 ran

FORM GUIDE

Lilli Claire: Fractured a knee last term. Improved to win listed race (8.5f, good) at Epsom in June by 1¼ lengths from Jinsiyah. Didn't reproduce the form next time
Reunion: Lightly raced, best form when winning the 1997 Nell Gwyn. Short-headed in a conditions stakes before 7th of 9 to Intikhab in the Queen Anne at Royal Ascot
Supercal: In frame in two listed races (over 9f and 7f) in May but below form since, mid-division in the Royal Hunt Cup last time. Has something to find
Yabint El Sultan: Won the Spring Cup at Newbury and a 9f listed race at Newmarket (by 1¼ lengths from Supercal) on a soft surface in the spring. Below form since
Beraysim: Second to Digitalize in 7f Newmarket maiden before smooth 4-length winner of a similar event at Goodwood (good to firm). Very promising but plenty to find
Cortona: Criquette Head's filly has a good chance on her 4-lengths second to Zalaiyka in the French 1000 Guineas (firm). Only fourth in a Group 3 at Chantilly last time
Digitalise: *Won a Newmarket maiden and Goodwood listed race in May.* 2-lengths second to Hunters Of Brora when favourite in a conditions stakes at Newcastle
Equity Princess: Improved efforts last two starts, winning a 9f conditions stakes at Hamilton (soft) and game ½-length second in a 1m rated stakes (good) at Ascot
Flawless: *Useful as a 2yo, in frame last three starts in the May Hill at Doncaster, and* in a listed race (2 lengths behind Name Of Love) and Rockfel Stakes at Newmarket
Lady In Waiting: Progressive form. Missed the 1000 Guineas because of injury and returned with 2¼-lengths fourth of 9 to Exclusive in Coronation Stakes at Royal Ascot
La Nuit Rose: Neck behind Lady In Waiting at Royal Ascot, making most. Third previously in the French and Irish equivalents of the 1000 Guineas
Lovers Knot: Progressing really well, winning a maiden by 11 lengths and 2¾ lengths third to Diktat in the Jersey at Royal Ascot. Bred to be suited by this step up to 1m
Wren: Bob Back filly. Unbeaten last year in two races at Milan (a Group 3 by 4¾ lengths final start from subsequent Italian 1000 Guineas winner) and one at Bordeaux.

VERDICT: This looks like a highly competitive Group 2, with classic form represented by **Cortona** and **La Nuit Rose**, another with Group 1 form in **Lady In Waiting** and several lightly-raced types on the way up. Most eyecatching in the last category is **LOVERS KNOT** who is having her first race at a mile and should improve for it. She has been progressing in good style as it is, so is selected ahead of Lady In Waiting.

4.15 SCOTTISH EQUITABLE/JOCKEYS ASSOCIATION SELLING STAKES (E) £7,000 added 2YO 7f £5,345

1		LA TACHE (A L Burke) G Bravery 9 2	N Day 13
2	041	OVER THE COUNTER (7) (D) (Over The Counter Partnership) M Channon 9 2	T Quinn 3
3	25613	PATONY (6) (D) (BF) (Winning Circle Racing Club Ltd) D Cosgrove 9 2	*J Reid 12*
4		SPARKLING DIAMOND (Barney Racing Partnership) S C Williams 9 2	W Ryan 1
5	650	ACE OF TRUMPS (21) (Fernedge Bloodstock Ltd & Eddie Bitz) W Haggas 8 11	M Hills 5
6	1	CABLE MEDIA BOY (44) (Cable Media Consultancy Ltd) S Kettlewell 8 11	J Fortune 15
7	5	SEASON OF HOPE (6) (*Mrs Christine Wilmott*) D Cosgrove 8 11	J Lowe 9
8	00	TIMBERHILL (4) (Timberhill Racing Partnership) M Channon 8 11	R Hughes 6
9	0	ANNIE APPLE (9) (David Allen) R Hannon 8 6	R Perham 14
10		CANYOUHEARME (Mrs T A Foreman) N Callaghan 8 6	L Dettori 8
11	031044	LADY PEPPIATT (12) (Kevin Reddington) J S Moore 8 6	M J Kinane 4
12	30	MAID TO MEASURE (4) (Mel Brittain) M Brittain 8 6	G Carter 10
13	5453	SECRET HAVEN (16) (David F Powell) B Meehan 8 6	G Hannon (7) 11
14	24501	TAMPA LADY (8) (R Fabrizius) M Johnston 8 6	J Carroll 2
15	0	VENTURE ISLAND (16) (The Square Table) W Musson 8 6	P Robinson 7

– 15 declared –

BETTING: 7-2 Cable Media Boy, 4 Canyouhearme, 5 Over The Counter, 8-1 Tampa Lady, Patony, Ace Of Trumps. 10-1 Annie Apple, 12-1 Timberhill, Lady Peppiatt, 14-1 others
1997: Below 2 8 11 R Hughes 20-1 (H Morison) drawn (6) 13 ran

FORM GUIDE

La Tache: Namaqualand filly out of a lightly-raced mare
Over The Counter: Benefited from drop in class making all to beat Patsys Forem three lengths in Brighton (7f) seller. Appears to have softer task in this company
Patony: Confirmed that her previous 7f course win *could have been a fluke of the draw* when third to Dolly Day Dream at Yarmouth (6f) last week. Looks moderate
Sparkling Diamond: Tina's Pet filly, half-sister to two winning hurdlers
Ace Of Trumps: Out of sorts last time but looks a possibility on previous eight-length fifth to Head Honcho at Sandown (5f), staying on. One to watch in the market.
Cable Media Boy: Carried plenty of market confidence when beating subsequent dual winner Cashiki on his Chepstow (6f, good to firm) debut, despite running green. Raced as though an extra furlong would suit and looks the one to beat
Season Of Hope: Well backed but missed the break and was soon well behind when 15 lengths last of five to Dolly Day Dream on Yarmouth (6f) debut. Plenty to find
Timberhill: Showed a little ability in higher grade at Doncaster in March but was behind final 2f when 14th of 16, beaten 19 lengths, to Kiss Me Goodknight at Chepstow (6f) after lay-off. Cost 17,000gns and is down in class; worth a check in the market
Annie Apple: Missed the break and was always struggling when last of eight, beaten *16 lengths, to Gipsy Rose Lee in much higher grade* at Windsor (6f). Stable youngsters often improve a good deal for debut, one to watch in the betting
Canyouhearme: Sabrehill filly out of 5f to mile winner Fivefive. Dettori booking looks significant and stable is often a force in valuable sellers of this type
Lady Peppiatt: *Winner of all-weather seller* at Southwell. *In frame last five starts in* sellers but is held by Cable Media Boy on Chepstow form in May (6f)
Maid To Measure: Disappointing 14th of 17 to Ferny Factors at Beverley (7f) but chance on previous two-and-a-half-length third to Ciaranna at Newcastle (6f seller).
Secret Haven: *Best effort when three lengths third to Polly Mills at Windsor (5f seller)* but held by Lady Peppiatt on that form and has since run moderately at Yarmouth.
Tampa Lady: Scrambled home from Melody Queen in Hamilton (6f) seller after in-and-out efforts in better grade. This trip should suit but looks to have plenty to do
Venture Island: *Started slowly and always* well behind when 22nd of 24, beaten 25 lengths, to Grey Princess in slightly higher grade at Windsor (6f). Little obvious chance

VERDICT: Judging by the market, the Chepstow win of **CABLE MEDIA BOY** came as no surprise to connections. The form has worked out pretty well and he is probably a cut above plating class. **Over The Counter** has the most obvious alternative claims on the book, but **Timberhill** and **Annie Apple** both appeal as likely improvers and **Canyouhearme** looks a particularly interesting newcomer in Dettori's hands.

4.45 E.B.F. FRANCIS GRAVES NOVICE STAKES (CLASS D) £7,000 added 2YO 6f Penalty Value £5,436

1	4U1	TOUGH GUY (28) (D) (Sqdn Ldr R A Milsom) M Jarvis 9 2	P Robinson 7
2		BAHAMIAN BANDIT (Lucayan Stud) R Hannon 8 12	O Peslier 1
3		BELASCO (R E Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 8 12	J Reid 5
4	0	COMPATRIOT (12) (BF) (M Tabor) N Callaghan 8 12	M J Kinane 6
5		HAAFIZ (Hamdan Al Maktoum) B Hanbury 8 12	W Ryan 8
6		*JOSR ALGARHOUD (Sheikh Ahmed Al Maktoum) M Channon 8 12*	*L Dettori 2*
7		MUJAHID (Hamdan Al Maktoum) J Dunlop 8 12	R Hills 3
8		ZIPPERGATE (W J Gredley) B Hills 8 12	M Hills 4

– 8 declared –

BETTING: 3-1 Belasco, 4-1 Mujahid, 5-1 Bahamian Bandit, 13-2 Josr Algarhoud, 7-1 Tough Guy, Compatriot, 8-1 Zippergate, 12-1 Haafiz
1997: Daggers Drawn 2 8 12 K Fallon 4-11 fav (H Cecil) drawn (9) 9 ran

FORM GUIDE

Tough Guy: 25,000-guinea yearling. Swerved and deposited his rider near the start second outing. Stayed on gamely to win Kempton maiden (6f, soft) by 1½-lengths
Bahamian Bandit: *29 February foal by First Trump. Ir44,000-guinea yearling.* Dam fairly useful sprinter who has already produced three winning sprinters
Belasco: 4 February Gone West colt out of the leading 2yo and Fred Darling winner Muscale. Looks interesting enough on paper
Compatriot: Bigstone half-brother to Oaks fourth Camporese. 9-4 favourite, lost a lot of ground at the start when towards rear in a maiden here. Seems well regarded
Haafiz: Born 13 March. Green Desert colt out of dual classic winner Midway Lady, who has produced one useful winner from six previous foals
Josr Algarhoud: 22 February, 160,000-guinea Darshaan colt. Half-brother to good French sprinter Sainte Marine, out of a smart French dam
Mujahid: 31 January colt by Danzig, first foal out of a useful sprint winner. Good pedigree credentials
Zippergate: 29 May foal by Mystiko, half-brother to Dewhurst second Call To Arms

VERDICT: Compatriot is interesting on the grounds that he started favourite on his debut, *as well as on pedigree. He might take care of the only other one of these to* have raced before, the penalised Tough Guy, but several well-related newcomers catch the eye, particularly **BELASCO** and **Mujahid**.

5.20 REG DAY MEMORIAL HANDICAP (CLASS C) £8,000 added 2m 24yds Penalty Value £6,160

1	445332	SWEETNESS HERSELF (8) (D) (Mrs M J Lovell) M Ryan 5 10 0	G Carter 5
2	112-00	*JASEUR (11) (D) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 5 9 11*	*L Dettori 4 V*
3	044053	SUBTLE INFLUENCE (4) (M Tabor) N Callaghan 4 9 7	M J Kinane 3 B
4	46-414	PREMIER NIGHT (12) (D) (D G Churston) S Dow 5 9 6	J Reid 7
5	400000	STATE FAIR (11) (Ray Richards) B Hills 4 9 6	M Hills 8
6	056-10	THORNBY PARK (58) (Appleby Lodge Stud) J Dunlop 4 9 4	Pat Eddery 9
7	01-050	HIGH INTRIGUE (21) (D) (Lordship Stud) H Cecil 4 9 3	W Ryan 6 V
8	114800	PROTOCOL (19) (P Lamyman) Mrs S Lamyman 4 9 1	C Teague (3) 2
9	1005-2	*ONE FOR BAILEYS (5) (G R Bailey) M Johnston 4 8 10*	*J Carroll 10*
10	30111-	STONED IMACULATE (J55) (D) (M Rowsell) F Murphy 4 8 3	Dean McKeown 1

– 10 declared –

BETTING: 9-2 Thornby Park, 11-2 Sweetness Herself, 6-1 Premier Night, Stoned Imaculate, 7-1 Subtle Influence, One For Baileys, 8-1 Jaseur, 10-1 others
1997: Media Star 4 9 4 L Dettori 2-1 fav (J Gosden) drawn (14) 14 ran

FORM GUIDE

Sweetness Herself: Not quite back to 1997 level, but third in a handicap at Haydock came close. Second to a good horse in Germany latest start, and now well treated
Jaseur: Notched up a hat-trick last season and a good second (beaten a neck, off this mark) final 4yo start. Well below form this term, in Northumberland Plate last time
Subtle Influence: Back to form when fifth in the Northumberland Plate and again ran well when third to Life Of Riley at Sandown on Saturday. Blinkered first time
Premier Night: In-foal mare. In good form this season, winning over 2m at Kempton. Should run her race, but not obviously well treated off this 5lb higher mark
State Fair: Last won in August 1996. Has slipped 19lb in the handicap over the last year, *but 10th of 20 in the Northumberland Plate was not too encouraging*
Thornby Park: Twice a winner over 1m6f on a soft surface, including at Salisbury in May. Looks sort to do well at 2m, but has not confirmed that on two previous attempts
High Intrigue: Has not progressed as anticipated yet this season, but ran respectably first two starts and the drop to 1m4f was completely against him on latest
Protocol: Won at 1m4f and 1m2f early in the season. Ran well enough next two outings but below form last two. Below form on two tries at 2m, on the all-weather
One For Baileys: Sometimes looks rather highly strung. Ended 1997 with two poor efforts. 7 lengths second of 5 to Invermark at Haydock on Friday. Something to prove
Stoned Imaculate: Won last three starts (all at around 2m on sound surface) last season. Has had 3 runs over hurdles since, easy winner at 4-1 on on 14 May last time

VERDICT: A 7lb rise in the weights since her final win in 1997 may not be enough to stop the progressive **STONED IMACULATE**. One major danger is **Sweetness Herself**, *who has slipped to an attractive mark but would be more interesting on an easy* surface. **Subtle Influence** should figure prominently again, though it remains to be seen how he will take to **blinkers**.

THE INDEPENDENT
Wednesday 8 July 1998

Star stock in short supply at the Loch

GOLF

BY ANDY FARRELL
at Loch Lomond

THERE APPEARS to be something missing from the title of this tournament but that's not the only thing lacking from "the bonnie, bonnie banks". The Standard Life Loch Lomond, which sounds less like a golf tournament than something an insurance salesman would want to sell you, manages to explain the who and the where but not the what. The words "World Invitational" have been dropped from the title and the omission amounts to an admission about the state of the field for the third playing of the tournament.

While there are no worries about the state, literally, of the field – the course is once again in immaculate condition and the setting is incomparable – fewer RSVPs have been received from the current invitations that went round the world than were accepted last year.

Taking over the slot prior to the Open Championship 12 months ago was deemed a success and the quality of the competition justified the previous title. Tom Lehman won from Ernie Els, with Greg Norman fourth and Payne Stewart sixth.

Of that band only Lehman has returned, although Norman is injured, and Colin Montgomerie, Lee Westwood and Jesper Parnevik are the only other members of the world's top 20 to be present. Els is preparing for the Open by playing links courses in Ireland this week.

Instead Mark Brooks, the 1996 USPGA champion, and Stewart Cink, the 1997 American rookie of the year, head an invitation list along with Lehman which also includes Billy Mayfair, Robert Damron and Howard Twitty. Little star appeal, then, has been added to what is otherwise a strong European Tour event, with 10 of the 12 members of the winning Ryder Cup team on show.

The prize-money of £850,000 is not to be sniffed at but other tournaments in Europe have raised the stakes to the million pound level and, in world terms, it is nothing special. However, a $1m bonus is on offer to anyone who doubles up by winning here and at the Open. The insurance premium will not have been high. Lehman, who yesterday played a practice round with the three star amateurs, Matt Kuchar, Sergio Garcia and Justin Rose, has not competed since missing out at the US Open.

Montgomerie's ankle injury, suffered during the Murphy's Irish Open, is on the mend. "It is better than it was in the second and third days last week," The Scot, who lost a play-off to David Carter in Ireland on Sunday, said. "I forgot about it during the last round, until my drive at the first extra hole."

Montgomerie made a swift getaway from Druids Glen and those who have been fined for missing prize-giving ceremonies in the past were interested yesterday to see if the Scot's pay packet would be similarly reduced.

"I'd have to be doing more damage to the ankle to withdraw from this week but that's not the case," Montgomerie added. "It would be very difficult for me not to play in Scotland. I look forward to this event. The course has lived up to expectations again and is in extremely good condition."

Montgomerie's only win in the country of his birth came in the Alfred Dunhill Cup with Andrew Coltart and Sam Torrance in 1995. But two years earlier Scotland were beaten by Paraguay. Carlos Franco, a member of that team, did accept an invitation to play here and, at 41st, is higher in the world rankings than Nick Faldo. Who needs star names?

Pak Se-ri, South Korea's golden girl, on the way to winning the US Open *Reuters*

Ferguson seeks £7m Ortega

FOOTBALL

BY ALAN NIXON

MANCHESTER UNITED are competing with the Italian club Sampdoria for the £7m signature of the Argentina playmaker Ariel Ortega, according to the player's agent, Juan Barros.

The United manager, Alex Ferguson, wants Ortega to fill the creative attacking role left vacant by the retirement of Eric Cantona. Barros said: "We have had offers from both Manchester United and Samp. One thing is sure, Ortega will not return to Valencia next season."

Valencia were willing to sell Ortega before the World Cup for around £5m as he was out of their side because of a dispute with the coach, Claudio Rainieri. However Ortega has performed well for Argentina in the World Cup finals despite being sent off for butting the Netherlands goalkeeper Edwin van der Saar. The Old Trafford club are ready to help finance the deal by off-loading Teddy Sheringham for £3.2m.

The Arsenal manager, Arsène Wenger, wants Ian Wright to stay at Highbury and help launch the club's assault on the Champions' League. Wright has said he feels as if he and the club are moving in different directions, but Wenger said: "I would like him to stay. I want the best for Ian Wright. He's a legend at Arsenal."

Kenny Dalglish snapped up the England Under-21 left-back Carl Serrant for Newcastle United in a £600,000 deal yesterday. Serrant was due to fly out for talks with Graeme Souness at Benfica today, but Dalglish persuaded Oldham to accept a reduced offer.

One World Cup player who will not be making his way to the Premiership is the Nigeria defender Taribo West who has pulled out of a £5m move to Liverpool after a sudden change of heart.

Rangers have targeted the Milan striker Filippo Maniero, who could become Dick Advocaat's fourth signing of the summer. The 25-year-old Italian is reported to be on the verge of agreeing a £3m move to Ibrox. Rangers are also pursuing the Argentina forward Gabriel Amato and Dutch midfielder Giovanni van Bronckhorst. They follow the £5m signing of the Netherlands left-back Artur Numan.

Wolves have agreed to release the former Blackburn winger Robbie Slater from his contract order to move back to his home near Lens in France.

The Aston Villa striker Julian Joachim is to sign a new five-year contract with the Midlands club.

The Sheffield Wednesday defender Dejan Stefanovic has had his application for a new work permit turned down.

The Yugoslav international found his first team chances restricted last season and failed to make the necessary number of appearances.

West Ham have signed a £3m, three-year shirt sponsorship deal with Dr Martens.

Platt hangs up boots

DAVID PLATT, the former England captain, retired from playing yesterday with a year of his Arsenal contract still to run after admitting that he could no longer perform at the top level, and prepared to embark on a round-the-world voyage of discovery to prepare for a career in management.

At the age of 32, most former internationals – Platt won 62 England caps scoring 27 goals – would have stayed on at a top club with a Champions' League campaign ahead of them. But Platt, whose transfer fees to Aston Villa, Bari, Juventus, Sampdoria and Arsenal totalled £22m intends to learn the ropes from leading coaches around the world to be able to "hit the ground running" when he starts his managerial career.

He said: "I felt 12 or 15 months ago that my physical condition was declining and I couldn't see myself improving as a player. I intend to spend an intensive period learning as much about management as I possibly can in Europe and South America. I have worked with some of the game's greatest coaches and hope to be able to call on them for advice."

Pak Se-ri the tigress with talent to spare

ANOTHER ASIAN tiger is stalking the golf world with the emergence of the 20-year-old, South Korean Pak Se-ri, the youngest winner of the US women's Open.

Pak beat the American amateur Jenny Chuasiriporn at the 92nd hole in sudden-death, following their 18-hole play-off, at Blackwolf Run in Kohler, Wisconsin, on Monday and returned to Seoul yesterday to find South Korea in a frenzy.

"No amount of praise is enough for you," said one newspaper headline, while another read "Tiger Woods should be called the male Pak Se-ri," comparing her with the American with Thai connections who won the US Masters as a rookie.

Another parallel with Woods is that Pak has the close support of her family. After her 15-foot birdie putt won the US Open, her father ran on to the green for her to jump into his arms.

Pak is also the youngest woman to win two majors in the same year. Two months ago she won the LPGA Championship. They thought it was a fluke, but now it seems women's golf, for long the poor relation of the men's game, has found the answer to prayers – a tigress with talent.

SPORTING DIGEST

ATHLETICS

British shot putter Guy Marshall, who was banned for four years in 1995 following a positive drugs test, has been given permission to return to the sport. Marshall's appeal for reinstatement has been approved by the International Amateur Athletic Federation, which last year voted to reduce doping bans from four to two years. "I expected to serve the full four years and was prepared to do so," said the 26-year-old, from Beverley, East Yorkshire. "I'm grateful for the chance to resume my career. Now I just want to compete again. I never stopped training and I believe I have enough potential to be among the leading three or four shot putters in Britain."

Britain's No 1 women's long jumper, Denise Lewis, will face the former Olympic long jump champion Heike Drechsler in the BUPA Games at Gateshead International Stadium later this month. Drechsler, the former world record holder, won gold for Germany at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, while Lewis won silver at the 1997 World Championships. In addition, Lewis will also compete in the 100 metres hurdles at Gateshead

BASKETBALL

Leicester Riders have re-signed Billy Singleton and Marc Hawley for their Budweiser League campaign next season.

Thames Valley Tigers, holders of the Classic Cola National Cup, face a first-round tie against London Towers, who will begin the new season with a new coach after parting with Kevin Cadle.

CLASSIC COLA NATIONAL CUP DRAW: 30 October: Newcastle v Milton Keynes. **31 October:** Thames Valley v London Towers, Leicester v Chester; Stevenage v Birmingham, Derby v Worthing, Manchester v Edinburgh, Plymouth v London Leopards; **1 November:** Teesside v Sheffield.

CRICKET

Sachin Tendulkar and Saurav Ganguly put on a world record opening stand as India beat Sri Lanka in the Independence Cup final in Colombo yesterday. Tendulkar made 128 while Ganguly hit 109 as the pair put on 252 runs for the first wicket. India closed on 307 for 6, and despite a fighting century from Aravinda de Silva, Sri Lanka were 301 all out in reply. Tendulkar's century equalled Desmond Haynes' world record of 17 hundreds in one-day internationals.

INDEPENDENCE CUP FINAL (One-day): Colombo: India 307 for 6, 50 overs (S Ganguly 109, S Tendulkar 128; Jayasuriya 2-42). **Sri Lanka 301 all out, 49.3 overs** (de Silva 105, Arapattu 38, Mahanama 44; Agarkar 4-53). **India beat Sri Lanka by six runs.**

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: Studley: Warwickshire 272-7 (M A Sheikh 60, T Frost 103no) v Worcestershire.

AON TROPHY (One-day): Lutterworth: Northamptonshire 145-9, Leicestershire 125. **Northamptonshire won by 20 runs. Lydney:** Glamorgan 139, Gloucestershire 142-3. **Gloucestershire won by 7 wkts.**

Owais Shah, of Middlesex, will captain England's Under-19s in three one-day internationals against the touring Pakistan Under-19 side. Two uncapped players, Durham bowler Stephen Harmison and Derbyshire batsman Ben Spendlove, are included.

ENGLAND U19 SQUAD: Shah (Middx, capt). **Franks** (Notts). **Harmison** (Durham). **Haywood** (Sussex). **Key** (Kent). **Laraman** (Middx). **Morris** (Hants). **Napier** (Essex). **Peters** (Essex). **Schofield** (Lancs). **Spendlove** (Derbys). **Swann** (Northants). **Wilton** (Sussex).

FOOTBALL

Reading are set to sign the Liberian international winger Massar from Hajduk Split for £150,000, and the York winger Graeme Murty for £700,000.

The former Scotland goalkeeper Bryan Gunn has signed a two-year contract with Hibernian.

Kashima Antlers' Brazilian manager, João Carlos, has resigned after disagreements with some of the Brazilian players in his squad.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND SQUAD (European Youth Championships): Delaney (Everton). **O'Reilly** (West Ham). **Hearty** (Huddersfield). **Dunne** (Everton). **Doyle** (St Patrick's). **Doherty** (Luton). **Gavin** (Middlesboro). **Crossley** (Celtic). **B Quinn** (Coventry). **A Quinn** (Sheff Wed). **O'Brien** (Middlesboro). **George** (Luton). **Partridge** (Liverpool). **Keane** (Wolves). **Casey** (Swansea). **Donnelly, McPhail** (both Leeds). **Duff** (Blackburn)

RUGBY LEAGUE

The Newcastle Knights winger Adam MacDougall has become the third member of the side to test positive for a banned substance. His sample was found to contain ephedrine. Robbie O'Davis and Wayne Richards both received 22-match suspensions for using anabolic steroids.

The Huddersfield centre James Bunyan will see a specialist in an attempt to cure his back injury. The 20-year-old pulled out of Sunday's 48-6 defeat by Halifax just minutes before the start after feeling sharp, stabbing pains in his back.

TENNIS

CZECH WOMEN'S OPEN (Prague) Singles, first round: A Carlsson (Swe) bt L Nemeckova (Cz Rep) 6-4, 6-4; M Shaughnessy (US) bt O Lugina (Ukr) 6-7 6-4 6-0; R Dragomir (Rom) bt K Hrdlickova (Cz Rep) 6-4 6-3; E Makarova (Rus) bt S Noorlander (Neth) 6-4 6-1.

SWEDISH MEN'S OPEN (Bastad) Singles, first round: J Golmard (Fr) bt F Squillari (Arg) 6-4 6-2; C Costa (Sp) bt Toma Nydahl (Swe) 6-2 6-2; D Sanguinetti (It) bt M Tillstrom (Swe) 6-2 6-3; A Medvedev (Ukr) bt B Karbacher (Ger) 6-2 6-1; A Gaudenzi (It) bt D Nargiso (It) 3-6 6-2 6-1; M Norman (Swe) bt H Arazi (Mor) 7-5 6-4; K Alami (Mor) bt A Pavel (Rom) 5-0 retired; J Novak (Cz Rep) bt D Pescariu (Rom) 7-5 6-4; F Vicente (Sp) bt M Larsson (Swe) 7-6 6-0.

MARIA LANKOWITZ WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT (Vienna) Singles, first round: K Boogert (Neth) bt P Wartusch (Aut) 6-3 3-6 6-3; AS Zanetti (It) bt B Schwartz (Aut) 7-6 6-3; G Leon-Garcia (Sp) bt S Talaja (Croa) 6-1 1-6 7-5; E Gagliardi (Swit) bt S Kloesel (Ger) 7-6 6-0; C Torres-Valero (Sp) bt P Stoyanova (Bulg) 6-2 6-1.

SWISS MEN'S OPEN (Gstaad) first round: L Arnold (Arg) bt R Federer (Swi) 6-4 6-4; (3) A Corretja (Sp) bt O Gross (Ger) 6-4 4-6 6-1.

LATEST ATP TOUR RANKINGS: 1 P Sampras (US) 3,825pts; 2 M Rios (Chile) 3,612; 3 P Korda (Czec Rep) 3,344; 4 C Moya (Sp) 2,970; 5 P Rafter (Aus) 2,878; 6 G Rusedski (GB) 2,706; 7 Y Kafelnikov (Rus) 2,619; 8 J Bjorkman (Swe) 2,581; 9 A Correja (Sp) 2,530; 10 R Krajicek (Neth) 2,399; 11 K Kucera (Slovak) 2,196; 12 F Mantilla (Sp) 2,192; 13 T Henman (GB) 2,088; 14 A Costa (Sp) 2,076; 15 M Chang (US) 2,008; 16 A Berasategui (Sp) 1,981; 17 G Ivanisevic (Croa) 1,921; 18 T Enqvist (Swe) 1,851; 19 A Agassi (US) 1,775; 20 C Pioline (Fr) 1,712.

LEADING ATP TOUR PRIZE-MONEY WINNERS: 1 M Rios (Chile) US$1,549,301; 2 C Moya (Sp) 1,264,033; 3 P Sampras (US) 1,089,137; 4 P Korda (Cz Rep) 933,013; 5 A Corretja (Sp) 898,289; 6 A Costa (Sp) 749,226; 7 G Ivanisevic (Croa) 693,972; 8 Y Kafelnikov (Russia) 612,797; 9 J Bjorkman (Sweden) 590,489; 10 C Pioline (Fr) 568,178. **Selected:** 11 G Rusedski (GB) 567,987; 14 P Rafter (Aus) 542,562; 17 T Henman (GB) 519,380

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

WORLD CUP: See page 29.

CRICKET

NATWEST TROPHY Second round (One day, 10.30): Cardiff: Glamorgan v Leicestershire. **Bristol:** Gloucestershire v Surrey. **Southampton:** Hampshire v Essex. **Old Trafford:** Lancashire v Yorkshire. **Southgate:** Middlesex v Durham. **Trent Bridge:** Nottinghamshire v Somerset. **Edinburgh:** Scotland v Derbyshire. **Edgbaston:** Warwickshire v Kent.

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (First day of three, 11.0): Chester-le-Street: Durham v Sussex. **Chelmsford:** Essex v Northamptonshire. **Canterbury:** Kent v Lancashire. **Harrow:** Middlesex v Derbyshire. **Taunton:** Somerset v Nottinghamshire. **The Oval:** Surrey v Glamorgan. **Todmorden:** Yorkshire v Hampshire

SPEEDWAY

ELITE LEAGUE: King's Lynn v Wolverhampton (7.45)

PREMIER LEAGUE: Hull v Glasgow (7.30)

OTHER SPORTS

EQUESTRIANISM: Royal International Horse Show (Hickstead).

TODAY'S NUMBER

224,420,182

The number of 'hits' the official Wimbledon website received during the Championships, an increase of more than 360 per cent over last year.

Pekerman made Argentina coach

ARGENTINA HAVE appointed their former international junior coach, Jose Pekerman, as their interim coach following the departure of Daniel Passarella.

Passarella stepped down as promised following his country's World Cup elimination by the Netherlands on Saturday, and Pekerman is the favourite to be his permanent successor.

Pekerman is a popular choice because of his success as coach of Argentina's Under-20 side which has won two World Championships playing exciting, attacking football.

A number of other qualified candidates are interested in the job, and they reportedly include Argentina's 1986 World Cup-winning coach, Carlos Bilardo.

Although Diego Maradona is not on the list, he does have a message for the new national coach – abandon the European style introduced by Passarella. Analysing the defeat by the Netherlands, Maradona said: "What annoyed me most was that our players did not play their own game, but played like Europeans.

"I would have been happy if we had gone down playing our own style. But Argentina came out playing like Germany while at the same time Holland played like Argentina and led us a merry dance."

Argentina's World Cup squad was welcomed home yesterday by more than 500 cheering fans. "We are always with you", "The champion is not always the best" and "Thanks for everything" were just some of the signs waved by supporters to their heroes.

All 240 drug tests in the first 60 matches of the World Cup have been negative, the governing body of world football, Fifa, said yesterday. Dr Michel D'Hooge, the Belgian chairman of Fifa's sports medical committee, said: "It gives me great satisfaction, but we are not claiming a 100 per cent victory yet as there are still four matches to play.

"However, the majority of players who are still to play have already been tested and we are hopeful that by the end of the tournament there will be perfect compliance of the Fifa regulations." Under Fifa rules two players from each team are tested after every match following a draw made at half-time.

Only three players have ever been sanctioned by Fifa for contravening doping controls at the World Cup: Ernst Jean-Joseph of Haiti in 1974, Willie Johnston of Scotland in 1978 and Diego Maradona of Argentina in 1994.

While the spotless reputation of France 98 has been maintained as far as drugs are concerned, the world's greatest-ever player has found several things to complain about.

Pele thinks Brazil are not playing their best football and England's David Beckham did not deserve the red card, while he considers the best teams so far to be France and the Netherlands. "Brazil can do a better job and are not working well together," Pele was quoted as saying in an interview in the French sports newspaper *L'Equipe* yesterday. "We've had some little problems with co-ordination. Luckily we qualified, but Brazil can play better."

He was critical of the World Cup's tough stance on tackling from behind, saying Fifa "creates difficulty for the defenders who are now afraid of getting a yellow or red card.

"We also see strikers dramatise things after a tackle to provoke a card. The confusion in these circumstances creates different attitudes in referees and inevitably mistakes."

Such as the expulsion of David Beckham in the Argentina v England second-round match? "Oh yes. I didn't see it very well the first time. But now I think that Simeone is... a good actor," Pele was quoted as saying. "Unfortunately England was eliminated and with it Michael Owen, who was the great surprise for me."

Sir Bobby Charlton believes France will win the trophy. England's record goalscorer says France's defensive strength will take them past Croatia in the semi-finals and they will be roared on by their home crowd to the ultimate prize.

Sir Bobby also has "a sneaking feeling" that the Netherlands will get past Brazil to take their place in the Stade de France on Sunday. "There are a lot of ifs and buts. However, I think France are the only ones who look as though they are definitely going to get there. I also have a sneaking feeling that Holland will beat Brazil, especially if Brazil make the same mistakes that they made against Denmark. Everybody tells me that Brazil can step up a gear – but they may be at full throttle already." Sir Bobby added: "France have their defensive strength and they have Zinedine Zidane. He makes it all happen and defences are frightened of him."

Charlton believes Brazilian star Ronaldo has yet to live up to his pre-tournament billing. "Before the World Cup, I would have said he was potentially the only one who was going to push himself into superstardom," said Sir Bobby.

"He's got the history that he can play – but unless you do it at World Cup level then you've not proved it. He's got the opportunity over the next one or maybe two games but he has to do it then."

Second semi-final: The burden of securing victory in Paris tonight falls on two players who have points to prove

Djorkaeff's free spirit can decide French fate

John Lichfield talks to the creative force of the France team, a rover while on the pitch but very direct when off it

Youri Djorkaeff, France's midfielder-cum-striker, adds another position to his repertoire during a training session at Clairefontaine near Paris *AFP*

YOURI DJORKAEFF will score a goal for France against Croatia in the World Cup semi-final at the Stade de France tonight. Who says so? Youri does. Youri Djorkaeff's name is permanently printed on the France team-sheet. Who says so? Youri does. Youri Djorkaeff invented the France style of play for *France 98*. Who says so? Youri did.

For a man who has yet to set the World Cup alight – one goal from the penalty spot; a series of unconvincing performances – the Internazionale striker-cum-midfielder has a high opinion of his own abilities. On the field he can be moody, frustrating, yet he is the first to tick off his colleagues, especially the younger ones. Off the field, he is more likeable – passionate, thoughtful, sometimes funny.

Djorkaeff is one of the rare footballers who thinks carefully before replying to questions. He tries to avoid stating the obvious. Is he pleased to have avoided the Germans in the semi-final? "No, I would have preferred the Germans. I think they were the weaker team. The Croats have the wind on their backs. They have the confidence to attempt, and to pull off, the unexpected."

Rumours from within the France camp suggest that some of his senior team-mates – Marcel Desailly, Didier Deschamps – wanted him dropped for the quarter-final game against Italy. Djorkaeff played and missed two good chances. He refused to take a penalty in the shoot-out ("I was too tired"), even though he is the team's penalty-taker and, at 30, one of the most experienced members of the squad. And yet there can be no doubt that Djorkaeff will play tonight.

"Youri didn't disappoint me [against the Italians]," the French coach, Aimé Jacquet, said. "His finishing was not what it might be but his technique and his cheek are indispensable." Jacquet added that he "quite understood" Djorkaeff's decision to refuse to take a penalty, allowing two 20-year-olds, Thierry Henry and David Trézéguet, to assume the responsibility instead.

Why is Jacquet so smitten by Djorkaeff? What, exactly, is his role in the France team? What did Djorkaeff mean when he said, before the World Cup, that he had "invented the Jacquet system"? (This is, perhaps, what the manager was thinking of when he referred to Djorkjaeff's "cheek".) The fact is that Djorkjaeff's role has changed during *France 98*.

The Jacquet system, from an original idea by Youri Djorkaeff, was to leave him as a "free spirit". Before the World Cup, he had scored 17 goals for France in 38 matches from this position. During *France 98*, Djorkaeff's flashes of speed and brilliance have been rarely seen. When Zinedine Zidane was suspended for two games, Djorkaeff seemed unsure whether he should fill the great man's boots by playing mostly in midfield or in his usual position further forward.

After the last-16 game against Paraguay, other senior players campaigned for Youri's replacement by a third midfield work-horse. Jacquet half-complied. Against Italy, he put Christian Karembeu into the midfield with Deschamps and Emmanuel Petit, but he started without his top scorer, Thierry Henry. He put the "indispensable" Djorkaeff alongside Zidane in a 4-3-2-1 formation, with only Stéphane Guivarc'h up front. Deschamps hinted after the game that Djorkaeff had been told that he must work harder. If so, he obeyed, harrying the Italians tirelessly. But he also fluffed the best two France chances of the match.

Djorkaeff was born into a football family. His father, Jean, of Russian-Ukrainian origin, was captain of the France team which performed miserably in England's World Cup year, 1966. The younger Djorkaeff had a steady, rather than meteoric, career, making his first international appearance at the age of 25. He played for Grenoble, Strasbourg and Monaco before blossoming with Paris St-Germain and making an impressive debut with Inter in 1996-7.

Last season, he faded, losing his regular place in Inter's line-up of global all-stars – Ronaldo, Ivan Zamorano, Diego Simeone etc. The loss of form has persisted into the World Cup. He appears to have become torn between playing his usual, free, selfish role and developing into a team player and has done neither particularly well. Has he, himself, been disappointed in his performances? "That's for others to judge. I'm playing the World Cup I expected to play. What is more important, that Youri Djorkaeff should score a lot of goals or that France should be in the semi-finals? Anyone who thinks that I could be disappointed or sad or bitter with that outcome does not understand anything about sport."

The frustrations and criticisms do not appear to have dented Djorkaeff's self-confidence, off-the-pitch in any case. On the pitch Jacquet has instructed him to be *more* arrogant and shoot on sight. "I know I'm going to score [against Croatia]," Djorkaeff said. "I know it. I feel it. I can't explain why. It's a kind of premonition... this time it's going to go in. I may only have a couple of chances but I'm going to score."

Suker's heart beats for a nation

Cute, cunning and deadly in front of goal, the Croat hit-man is the player the host nation fear most. By **Andrew Longmore**

THE PRESS box at the Stade Gerland in Lyons is, unlike the crow's nests at other World Cup stadiums, at pitch level. What it loses in perspective, it gains in atmosphere. And, on Saturday evening, it afforded the world's press an unrivalled view of the skill of Davor Suker.

Midway through the second half of the 3-0 victory over Germany, the Croatian striker received the ball with his back to goal close to the touchline. Behind him was Michael Tarnat. Quite how Suker judged the distance remains a mystery, but with a turn, a roll of his right foot across the ball and skip to the right, he drew the German wing-back into a challenge and, threading the ball through a gap of perhaps a foot between German studs and white line, sped away from his marker towards the byline.

Suker will want the video stopped right there, but what happens next is as much part of the story. In his eagerness to capitalise, Suker stumbled, tried to recover his balance, like a drunk tripping over the kerb, and plunged head first into the ground. From the sublime to the ridiculous in the twinkling of an eye.

For all his 34 goals in 40 internationals, his wealth and status, there is still a sense that Suker has not made the most of what he has. Suker at least had the good grace to emerge with a rueful smile flicking his lips. At 30, he is too old to be taught new tricks.

"Dangerous" is how Aimé Jacquet, the France coach, has described his unlikely semi-final opponents in the Stade de Denis this evening. "Mentality has often been a weakness in Yugoslav and former Yugoslav players," Jean François Jodar, one of Jacquet's spies, said. "But I don't think we can count on that this time." Their chessboard shirts might have been voted the ugliest in the tournament, but Jürgen Klinsmann and Lothar Matthäus would vouch for the strange forces unleashed by their distinctive pattern.

Yet, if national intensity was a passport to success, Croatia would have won the European Championship in a patriotic canter two years ago. Instead, Germany administered a painful lesson in the art of emotional control. Just how thoroughly the theory had been absorbed became apparent in Lyons when Suker, who had dropped deep partly to drag Köhler and Matthäus out of position, partly to keep within lobbying distance of the Norwegian referee, lured Christian Worns into a rash challenge and turned an admittedly crude foul into a French banquet. "*Suker est malin*" said the headline the following morning. *Malin* can mean wicked, but here it meant cute, cunning.

Orchestrated by Suker, the Croatians pushed the Germans way over the line laid down at the finals, a fact symbolically acknowledged by Suker, who wielded a Croatian flag like a matador's cape during the chaotic celebration of Germany's heaviest World Cup defeat for 40 years.

"The big guns don't always win," Suker said later, a reference to the dismissive comments of Berti Vogts, the Germany coach. The war-torn spirit of *Euro 96* has been transformed into a chippy little complex in *France 98*. When Jacquet referred to their victory as a "semi-surprise", the propaganda battle had started again. The Croatians took that as a slight, though they refer to themselves as "Little Croatia".

Suker, along with Zvonimir Boban, has represented the emerging sense of national identity which followed Croatia's independence in 1991. Both were members of the Yugoslav junior side which won the World Championship in 1987, but neither had any doubts where their loyalties truly lay.

Suker was born and brought up in Osijek, a town 150 miles east of Zagreb. His father was an Olympic shot-putter, Tomislav Suker, but football was always Davor's game. From Osijek he moved to Dynamo Zagreb, now Croatia Zagreb, where his instinct for goalscoring – 167 in five seasons – attracted a lucrative move to Seville.

Suker was there when the civil war began in July 1991 and the guilt still lingers along with relief. International footballers were regarded as too important to be sacrificed on the battlefield, but team-mates of Suker's at Osijek and Zagreb stayed at home and paid the journeyman's price.

Suker, though, has never had any difficulty adjusting to the high life. His first season at Real Madrid brought 24 goals and a Spanish championship; his second, a much publicised romance with a television presenter and a season ticket to the substitutes' bench, from which he watched his former compatriot, the Yugoslav Predrag Mijatovic, win the European Cup for Real.

The Croat Suker became the playboy Suker and even his countrymen began to wonder if their "Sukerman" had lost his cape until a vital goal in Greece ensured Croatia of qualification for their first World Cup.

Throughout, he has remained that rarity, a calm, almost serene, Croat. In the chaos of a twice-taken penalty against Romania, one of his four goals in five games, Suker was shown with his right hand to his chin in a philosopher's pose. Just checking his pulse rate, he said later. "When it was 120, I knew I could control my nerves." The sight of Suker within range of goal tonight will induce a collective twitch in the French pulse.

Davor Suker celebrates one of his four goals in France 98 which have helped to see Croatia through to tonight's semi-final *AP*

THE INDEPENDENT
Wednesday 8 July 1998

Blatter bemoans 'textile testers'

BY TOMMY STANIFORTH

THE NETHERLANDS' Dennis Bergkamp would not even have started last night's World Cup semi-final against Brazil if Fifa's disciplinary committee had done their job, the new president Sepp Blatter has claimed. Instead, Bergkamp would be serving the second of a two-match ban for stamping on Yugoslavia's Sinisa Mihajlovic in the Netherlands' second round 2-1 victory.

Television replays showed the Arsenal striker stamping on the Yugoslav but neither the referee nor his assistant intervened. Days earlier France's Zinedine Zidane committed a similar offence in his country's group match against Saudi Arabia. Zidane was sent off and banned for two matches. The disciplinary committee has refused to study videos in *France 98* to discern which players are breaking the rules. The decision has enraged Blatter.

"There were two cases of them using videos in 1994," Blatter said. "One to prevent a player getting a second yellow card and in the other to punish an Italian player for a foul on a Spanish player. The disciplinary committee have the opportunity to use videos here in France but they will not do it. I will have a word with them after the tournament, a very serious word."

However, Blatter's "word" may not be enough. The committee only intervenes if an act is committed behind the referee's back, which was not the case with Bergkamp. Blatter also criticised players he described as "textile testers".

"It is incredible how many players are using their hands, grabbing an opponent's shirt. It is as if they have been signed up by several companies as textile testers," he complained.

The length of the tournament and kick-off time of the final also came in for criticism. "The next World Cup should be shortened by four or five days," Blatter said.

"Thirty-two days is really a long period. It is not easy. In the opening phase, teams had six days between matches," Blatter told a Swiss newspaper yesterday. "That's too many. It shouldn't be longer than four days."

He conceded there was a danger of viewers being saturated if matches were played closer together, but that the danger "also exists if the World Cup lasts for 33 days". In an effort to solve the problem Blatter suggested increasing the number of matches a day during the first round but admitted that any changes would need to be discussed with television companies.

Sunday's final kicks off at 9pm local time, and Blatter said he was unhappy with that too. "It means we cannot have a party on the same day of the final. It will have to be held in the early hours on Monday morning. The kick-off should have been at 6pm," he said. Asked why the 9pm kick-off had not been changed he replied, with a smile: "I wasn't president then."

Although he is charge now, Blatter said that he had no plans to change some of *France 98's* more controversial arrangements. "There's no question that changes must be made in the sale of tickets," Blatter continued, but he did not specify what changes might be considered. Ticket scandals have dogged the finals.

Blatter, 62, hinted that he will step down from the committee bidding for the 2006 Winter Olympics to come to Switzerland. He is one of the most prominent campaigners for the bid to host the games in Sion, in his native state of Valais.

"A double function in Fifa and Sion 1996 doesn't seem possible any more," he was quoted as saying. "But I will continue to support the application in some form." The new Fifa president denied he has promised the 2006 World Cup finals to Africa, but said a rotation system among America, Europe, Asia and Africa is "logical".

"[Africa] needs to be able to offer the necessary structures if it is to be awarded the tournament," Blatter said. He also promised unity on the world body's ruling executive committee and said the Uefa president ,Lennart Johansson, whom Blatter defeated last month for the Fifa presidency, would become one of his "closest contacts".

A giant replica of Tricolore, the France 98 World Cup football, hangs from the ceiling of a Parisian department store. Sepp Blatter, the new Fifa president, has promised changes will be made in the sale of tickets, a source of controversy throughout these finals *AFP*

'Kaiser' predicts rise of clubs

FRANZ BECKENBAUER yesterday criticised the standard of football at the World Cup finals and predicted the European club game would one day eclipse international football.

Beckenbauer, who won the World Cup with Germany both as a captain in 1974 and a coach in 1990 and known as the "Kaiser", said that the probable creation of a European league could lead to a major shift in the game's power base.

"The European league will come and the top clubs will gain in power," Beckenbauer predicted. "One day there won't be a national team anymore. Europe is growing together. At the moment the national team has a high value. But the influence of the clubs is getting bigger.

"The World Cup has been okay. But it has been without big moments," he said. "Some of the games in the first round should not have taken place in a stadium but on an all-weather practice pitch."

The Croatia coach, Miroslav Blazevic, said yesterday that he was considering other offers and did not know if he would remain as national coach after the World Cup. "I have had a number of offers, most notably from within France," said Blazevic, whose side face France in the second semi-final today.

Blazevic said he was not involved in negotiations with any clubs: "At the moment I am not dealing with my future, I have a big game to prepare for. We will see after the World Cup."

A Croatian football federation spokesman, Darko Tironi, said that the 63 year old has two years remaining on his contract with the national side. But Blazevic might be swayed by the opportunity to coach in France again, having done so at the first division club Nantes in 1988. He has also been in charge at the Swiss club Grasshopper Zurich and Greek side PAOK Salonika.

Moreno Torricelli, the Italy defender, has moved from Juventus to Fiorentina. Torricelli, 28, has spent the past six seasons in Turin, winning three *Serie A* titles and one European Cup. Also on the move is the Austria striker Toni Polster, who has joined the German club Borussia Mönchengladbach from Cologne.

Star billing in Zidane territory

ANDY MARTIN
AT LARGE IN FRANCE

LA CASTELLANE. I wanted to go to La Castellane. Everyone thought I was crazy.

"You want to go where? Are you crazy?" This was a friendly guy at the station. "But that is *le Quartier Nord*. It's hot there! Well, OK, but don't go on your own. With that white hair! Take two or three friends with you, you'll be fine. And yet, look what happened a couple of weeks ago..."

There is a widespread theory that all the trouble in Marseilles started when several thousand malcontents descended on the town from the outer suburbs to the north, specifically to mix it with the English. And now I wanted to go precisely to one of these *cités*. I had a good reason though: I was looking for Zinedine Zidane's place. Zidane, the star of the French team, was born in La Castellane.

The taxi driver did not care who was born there: he wasn't driving to La Castellane. "It's not worth it. I will get my car smashed up; they break everything there. If you're going, don't take any money with you. They are strong, and there are lots of them." The "them" being the multifarious citizens the *Marseillais* refer to as "arabs", "moslems" or "North Africans".

So – with the sense that I was venturing into a no-go area, a warzone, and coward enough to identify myself as Australian if anyone asked – I took the metro to Bougainville and the 25 bus (it takes an hour) instead. When I got off the bus the cicadas were blasting away and I could see far out over the harbour and Mediterranean. I had the sense that this was as far south as it was possible to go and still be in France, if indeed I was in France.

For most *Marseillais*, La Castellane is another country. But it is definitely not a colourful Casbah, more an archipelago of grey and cream tower blocks with empty expanses of concrete between them. There was a bunch of teenage kids – of North African ancestry, I guessed, kicking a football about. "What are you looking for?" one of them said to me.

I gulped. "I'm looking for the club."

"It's over there. I'll take you." About 10 of them took me to the club.

"Are you supporting Brazil or Holland?" the kid asked me.

"Brazil and Holland," I said, playing it safe.

"We're supporting Holland," he said. "If we win tomorrow, we'd rather meet Holland than Brazil in the final."

He accompanied me to the *Association des jeunes de la nouvelle vague*, which is the seat of La Castellane football club. It was like a shop-front, not much more (their ground is further off). A giant poster of Zidane, honourary president of the club, took pride of place.

There were three or four guys lounging in the sun outside. "We're third in the *division d'honneur*", one of them told me, after Olympique Marseilles (one of their B teams) and someone else. Zidane's apartment was at the end of the square, with a purple parasol sticking out of the window.

"He lives in Italy now," one of a bunch of little kids told me. "But if you want to meet some Zidanes, there are two of them." He introduced me to Driss and Mehdi, his nephews, who were six and three years old. They were putting on in-line skates, but they assured me that they were going to play for France one day and that France would certainly win the World Cup and that, yes, Zidane himself would score the winning goal.

Saida was the name of the stunningly beautiful young girl (around 15) who was keeping an eye on them and who had some complicated relationship to Zidane I didn't really understand. "What do the girls do here if all the boys play football?" I asked her. "We play football, too," she said. "We are all Zidanes here."

Her friend told me, without me asking, that the Zidanes had a Kabyl background.

Then still more kids rolled up and asked me to speak some English to them and they spoke English back to me. Then we had to speak Spanish. "You don't know any Chinese do you?" one of them asked.

"That hair of yours," said another (in French now), "it's not real, is it? It's dyed, right?"

"Have you got a ticket for the match?"

I was Mr Popular, the star attraction, sitting on the steps outside the club, for an hour or so, shooting the breeze with about a hundred kids. I did not give anyone anything and no one asked me for anything, let alone mug me and leave me for dead. Maybe I was lucky. Then, as I was being escorted back to the bus, I came across someone who really was giving something away. Well, a party of American evangelists, to be exact, who were on a mission and had been doling out Bibles in Arabic, Kabyl, French and Spanish. Their entire stock had gone.

"I have a gift for you and it's free," one of them said. "It's the only French I know."

THE GLOBAL GAME

THE WORLD CUP AROUND THE WORLD

"DANIEL PASSARELLA'S luck finally ran out in the dying moments of Saturday's World Cup quarter-final but his fear of losing sowed the seeds of defeat long before. He was picking sides to counter the opposition rather than exploit their own merits, a fact that irritated critics like his former mentor Cesar Luis Menotti and team-mate Diego Maradona." *The Buenos Aires Herald gives it verdict on the returning losers' coach.*

"WE NEED to evaluate the cost-benefit of this whole Reggae Boyz promotional exercise. This analysis will help us determine whether the whole exercise was cost-beneficial or if there needs to be changes in the marketing strategy. We need to look at the episode as a business and use data analysis as a means of quantifying and maximising the benefits we got from it, or our trip to Japan 2002 might just be a joyride for a few influential persons. Yours etc, Ainsworth Dick, Kingston 5." *Extract from letter to the editor of the Jamaica Gleaner.*

QUOTES OF THE DAY

What Marcel [Desailly] and I are today has a lot to do with [Miroslav] Blazevic.
Didier Deschamps, the French midfielder, pays tribute to his ex-Nantes coach and mentor, now the Croatia coach.

I'm not worried about it all blowing up in my face. I'm hungry for success – and I've got big teeth!
France's Emmanuel Petit goes slightly dental on his prospects.

We were under Yugoslavia for 45 years and we couldn't say we were Croats. Now we can. That's very important for us.
Croatia and Derby's defender, Igor Stimac, on the importance of national pride.

DIARY

WHY DO referees want to go the World Cup and risk being vilified? The wages could offer a pointer. Each referee is paid £15,000 for the tournament, given free board and lodging, and £125-per-day 'pocket money', making a total of around £20,000 for the five weeks. The *Independent* telephoned the FA to ask how the money compares to that paid to Premiership referees, but the line was engaged all day. One can only assume Lancaster Gate was being deluged by enquiries from people who want application forms to be the next Paul Durkin.

FIFA IS sponsoring a study of 700 football players in three European nations to pinpoint the chief causes and ways to prevent injuries. Dr Jiri Dvorak, a member of Fifa's medical commission, said the study encompasses all levels, from amateurs to professionals, ages 14 and above, in France, Germany and Czechoslovakia. Similar research in the past helped lead to the banning of the tackle from behind – the new research might lead to the banning of the tackle altogether. Who knows, future research might even lead to a ban on kicking the ball. Perhaps Maradona, with his hands-on approach, was not cheating, but simply way ahead of his time.

ILUKA TRIPKOVIC, the patron of Paris's only Croatian bar, had to lock 300 people outside for the quarter-final game. "I need a room six times bigger than this bar for the France game," he said.

هكذا من الاصل

THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO FRANCE 98

THE FINAL STAGES

SECOND ROUND

Paris
Brazil 4 Chile 1
Cesar Sampaio 11, 27; Ronaldo 45, 70 — Salas 68

St Denis
Nigeria 1 Denmark 4
Babangida 77 — Moller 3, B Laudrup 12, Sand 59, Helveg 76

Toulouse
Netherlands 2 Yugoslavia 1
Bergkamp 38; Davids 90 — Komljenovic 49

St Etienne
Argentina 2 England 2
Argentina win 4-3 on penalties
Batistuta pen 6; Zanetti 45 — Shearer pen 10; Owen 16

Marseilles
Italy 1 Norway 0
Vieri 18

Lens
France 1 Paraguay 0
Blanc 114
Golden goal in extra time

Montpellier
Germany 2 Mexico 1
Klinsmann 47; Bierhoff 87 — Hernandez 46

Bordeaux
Romania 0 Croatia 1
Suker pen 45

QUARTER-FINALS

Nantes
Brazil 3 Denmark 2
Bebeto 11; Rivaldo 26, 60 — Jorgensen 2; B Laudrup 50

Marseilles
Netherlands 2 Argentina 1
Kluivert 12; Bergkamp 90 — Lopez 18

St Denis
Italy 0 France 0
France win 4-3 on penalties

Lyons
Germany 0 Croatia 3
Jarni 45, Vlaovic 80, Suker 85

SEMI-FINALS

Yesterday — Marseilles
Netherlands v Brazil

Today 8pm — St Denis
France v Croatia

FINAL

Sunday 12 July 8pm — St Denis
v

3rd/4th place play-off

Saturday 11 July 8pm — Paris
v

All times BST

TODAY'S MATCH

Croatia v France

SEMI-FINAL: STADE DE FRANCE, ST DENIS, PARIS. KICK-OFF: 20.00 BST

SIMIC, JARNI, THURAM, ASANOVIC, DESCHAMPS, SUKER, HENRY, BLANC, BILIC, PETIT, BARTHEZ, LADIC, BOBAN, ZIDANE, DESAILLY, STANIC, VLAOVIC, DJORKAEFF, STIMAC, PIRES, LIZARAZU, SOLDO

PROBABLE TEAMS

WEATHER: Overcast. Temperature: 16C.

REFEREE: J M GARCIA ARANDA (SPAIN)
TV: LIVE: BBC1 7.35; EUROSPORT 7.50

CROATIA

1 Drazen Ladic ..... Croatia Zagreb
2 Petar Krpan ..... Osijek
3 Anthony Seric ..... Hajduk Split
4 Igor Stimac ..... Derby County
5 Goran Juric ..... Croatia Zagreb
6 Slaven Bilic ..... Everton
7 Aljosa Asanovic ..... Napoli
8 Robert Prosinecki ..... Croatia Zagreb
9 Davor Suker ..... Real Madrid
10 Zvonimir Boban ..... Milan
11 Silvio Maric ..... Croatia Zagreb
12 Marjan Mrmic ..... Besiktas
13 Mario Stanic ..... Parma
14 Zvonimir Soldo ..... VfB Stuttgart
15 Igor Tudor ..... Hajduk Split
16 Ardian Kozniku ..... Bastia
17 Robert Jarni ..... Real Betis
18 Zoran Mamic ..... VfL Bochum
19 Goran Vlaovic ..... Valencia
20 Dario Simic ..... Croatia Zagreb
21 Krunoslav Jurcic ..... Croatia Zagreb
22 Vladimir Vasilj Hrvatski Dragovoljac

Coach: Miroslav Blazevic

TEAM NEWS

CROATIA: No injury or suspension worries and a unchanged line-up is possible.

FRANCE: Christophe Dugarry, who tore his right thigh muscle against Saudi Arabia, is fit again but expected to start on the bench. Thierry Henry is expected to start. Youri Djorkaeff and fellow midfielder Emmanuel Petit, who both took knocks in the game against Italy, are also fit. No suspensions.

No previous meetings.

FRANCE

1 Bernard Lama ..... West Ham
2 Vincent Candela ..... Roma
3 Bixente Lizarazu ..... Bayern Munich
4 Patrick Vieira ..... Arsenal
5 Laurent Blanc ..... Marseilles
6 Youri Djorkaeff ..... Internazionale
7 Didier Deschamps ..... Juventus
8 Marcel Desailly ..... Milan
9 Stéphane Guivarc'h ..... Auxerre
10 Zinedine Zidane ..... Juventus
11 Robert Pirès ..... Metz
12 Thierry Henry ..... Monaco
13 Bernard Diomède ..... Auxerre
14 Alain Boghossian ..... Sampdoria
15 Lilian Thuram ..... Parma
16 Fabien Barthez ..... Monaco
17 Emmanuel Petit ..... Arsenal
18 Franck Leboeuf ..... Chelsea
19 Christian Karembeu ..... Real Madrid
20 David Trézéguet ..... Monaco
21 Christophe Dugarry ..... Marseilles
22 Lionel Charbonnier ..... Auxerre

Coach: Aimé Jacquet

THE MICE THAT ROARED

URUGUAY 1930
In 1930, the semi-finals were graced by a minnow when the **United States** reached the last four, beating Belgium and Paraguay 3-0 along the way. The semis was as far as they progressed however, where they were knocked out, 6-1, by the eventual winners, Uruguay.

FRANCE 1938
In 1938, the debutants **Cuba** made their way to the quarter-finals after they drew with Romania, 3-3, and then managed to overcome them 2-1 in the replay. Their luck then deserted them, however, and they lost to Sweden – 8-0.

BRAZIL 1950
The **USA** again provided a shock when they embarrassed England 1-0 in the first round. They were unable to match that kind of form or luck in their other group games, and they lost 3-1 to Spain and 5-2 to Chile on their way to being eliminated.

SWEDEN 1958
Northern Ireland and **Wales** both performed well in Sweden in 1958. The Northern Irish drew 2-2 with West Germany and then beat Czechoslovakia twice (once in a play-off), before they lost to the French, 4-0, in the quarter-finals. The Welsh narrowly lost 1-0 to the eventual winners, Brazil, in the last eight.

ENGLAND 1966
Portugal reached the 1966 semi-finals on their debut. Until Croatia this year, they were the only debutant team to have done so.

MEXICO 1970
Peru, waited until 1970 to make their impact, where they managed to reach the quarter-finals. They beat Bulgaria and Morocco in the first round, before they lost a thriller against Brazil, 4-2.

ARGENTINA 1978
Peru caused an upset as they beat Scotland 3-1, Teofilo Cubillas scoring two late goals. They then beat Iran 4-1 and drew 0-0 with the eventual runners-up, the Netherlands. The dream turned sour as they lost to Brazil, Argentina and Bulgaria in the second round. Peru were almost joined in the second round by **Tunisia** who, having beaten Mexico 3-1, drew with West Germany. A win would have taken them through.

SPAIN 1982
Northern Ireland came within a whisker of a semi-final berth. They drew with Yugoslavia and the debutants **Honduras** before beating hosts Spain 1-0. In the second round they drew with Austria, which left them needing a win against France. They lost 4-1, a result compounded by Martin O'Neill having an early goal disallowed.

ITALY 1990
Scotland fell foul of a minnow once more at Italia 90. Juan Cayasso's 49th-minute winner sending debutants **Costa Rica** on their way to the second round. Their place in the next stage of the tournament was confirmed when they beat Sweden 2-1. In their next match, the Central Americans managed to hold Czechoslovakia for an hour in the second round but eventually went down 4-1 in a feisty display.

THE NOT SO GREAT
Minnows have not always fared so well. **El Salvador** lost 10-1 to Hungary in 1982. Hungary also put nine past **South Korea** in 1954 without reply. That victory margin was matched by Yugoslavia's demolition of **Zaire** in 1974.

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

SWEDEN 1958
Home crowds have inspired insipid sides to greater things on more than one occasion. Sweden, the great World Cup under-achievers, epitomised the phenomenon when they reached the final in 1958. There, despite taking an early lead, they lost 5-2 Brazil, the 17-year-old Pele scoring two.

CHILE 1962
Chile reached the semi-finals at home in 1962, in their fourth World Cup appearance. They succumbed 4-2 to the eventual winners, Brazil but did find some consolation, beating Yugoslavia 1-0 in the third-place play-off.

ENGLAND 1966
Arguably the most famous host triumph of them all (If you're English). England beat West Germany 4-2 in the final, with that controversial Geoff Hurst third goal and the 'they think it's all over' fourth. The hosts played all their six games at Wembley, which probably helped somewhat.

WEST GERMANY 1974
The last time that European hosts won the tournament was when West Germany beat the Netherlands 2-1. The Germans came back from an early Johan Neeskens penalty with goals from Paul Breitner and Gerd Müller. An earlier match saw East Germany beat West, 2-0.

ARGENTINA 1978
The hosts triumphed again as the Argentinians beat the Netherlands 3-1, Mario Kempes and Daniel Bertoni scoring in extra time. At 90 minutes the score had been 1-1, but the electrifying atmosphere carried the home team to the trophy.

USA 1994
The United States have the joint worst record as hosts, getting only as far as the second round. They lost 1-0 to Brazil, who were reduced to 10 men after Leonardo elbowed Tab Ramos and was sent off. The hosts were later reduced to 10 men, on the fourth of July of all days, when Fernando Clavijo was dismissed.

GOALSCORERS

FIVE GOALS
Christian Vieri (Italy)
Gabriel Batistuta (Argentina)

FOUR GOALS
Marcelo Salas (Chile)
Luis Hernandez (Mexico)
Davor Suker (Croatia)

THREE GOALS
Thierry Henry (France)
Cesar Sampaio (Brazil)
Ronaldo (Brazil)
Jürgen Klinsmann (Germany)
Oliver Bierhoff (Germany)
Bebeto (Brazil)
Dennis Bergkamp (Netherlands)
Rivaldo (Brazil)

TWO GOALS
Alan Shearer (Eng); **Michael Owen** (Eng); **Roberto Baggio** (It); **Abdeljalil Hadda** (Mor); **Salaheddine Bassir** (Mor); **Shaun Bartlett** (SA); **Fernando Hierro** (Sp); **Francisco Morientes** (Sp); **Niko** (Sp); **Marc Wilmots** (Bel); **Philip Cocu** (Neth); **Ronald de Boer** (Neth); **Slobodan Komljenovic** (Yug); **Ricardo Pelaez** (Mex); **Viorel Moldovan** (Rom); **Ariel Ortega** (Arg); **Theodore Whitmore** (Jam); **Brian Laudrup** (Den).

ONE GOAL
John Collins (Sco); **Craig Burley** (Sco); **Dan Eggen** (Nor); **Havard Flo** (Nor); **Tore Andre Flo** (Nor); **Kjetil Rekdal** (Nor); **Moustafa Hadji** (Mor); **Luigi Di Biagio** (It); **Pierre Njanka** (Cam); **Patrick Mboma** (Cam); **Anton Polster** (Aut); **Mica Vastic** (Aut); **Andreas Herzog** (Aut); **Jose Luis Sierra** (Chile); **Marc Rieper** (Den); **Allan Nielsen** (Den); **Michael Laudrup** (Den); **Peter Moller** (Den); **Ebbe Sand** (Den); **Thomas Helveg** (Den); **Christophe Dugarry** (Fr); **David Trézéguet** (Fr); **Bixente Lizarazu** (Fr); **Youri Djorkaeff** (Fr); **Emmanuel Petit** (Fr); **Laurent Blanc** (Fr); **Benedict McCarthy** (S Africa); **Sami Al-Jaber** (S Arabia); **Youssef Al-Thaqafi** (S Arabia); **Raul** (Sp); **Luis Enrique** (Sp); **Mutiu Adepoju** (Nigeria); **Garba Lawal** (Nigeria); **Sunday Oliseh** (Nigeria); **Victor Ikpeba** (Nigeria); **Wilson Oruma** (Nigeria); **Tijjani Babangida** (Nigeria); **Celso Ayala** (Para); **Miguel Benitez** (Para); **Jose Cardozo** (Para); **Emil Kostadinov** (Bul); **Ha Seok-ju** (S Kor); **Yoo Sang-chul** (S Kor); **Alberto Garcia Aspe** (Mex); **Cuauhtemoc Blanco** (Mex); **Marc Overmars** (Neth); **Pierre van Hooijdonk** (Neth); **Edgar Davids** (Neth); **Luc Nilis** (Bel); **Andreas Möller** (Ger); **Sinisa Mihajlovic** (Yug); **Predrag Mijatovic** (Yug); **Dragan Stojkovic** (Yug); **Hamid Estili** (Iran); **Mehdi Mahdavikia** (Iran); **Brian McBride** (US); **Paul Scholes** (Eng); **Darren Anderton** (Eng); **David Beckham** (Eng); **Adrian Ilie** (Rom); **Dan Petrescu** (Rom); **Leider Preciado** (Col); **Skander Souayah** (Tun); **Mario Stanic** (Croa); **Robert Prosinecki** (Croa); **Robbie Earle** (Jam); **Hector Pineda** (Arg); **Javier Zanetti** (Arg); **Masashi Nakayama** (Japan); **Michael Jorgensen** (Den); **Robert Jarni** (Croa); **Goran Vlaovic** (Croa); **Patrick Kluivert** (Neth); **Claudio Lopez** (Arg).

OWN GOALS
Tommy Boyd (Sco); **Youssef Chippo** (Mor); **Pierre Issa** (S Africa); **Sinisa Mihajlovic** (Yug).
Does not include Netherlands v Brazil

RED AND YELLOW CARDS

YELLOW CARDS
Players involved in the semi-finals on one yellow card

Leonardo (Brazil); **Aldair** (Brazil); **Roberto Carlos** (Brazil).
Jaap Stam (Netherlands).
Stéphane Guivarc'h (France); **Didier Deschamps** (France).
Slaven Bilic (Croatia); **Zvonimir Boban** (Croatia); **Davor Suker** (Croatia); **Dario Simic** (Croatia).
Does not include Netherlands v Brazil

TEAM OF THE DAY

OVER THE HILL XI
A team of thirty-something players who have appeared in France 98 but may well not play in another World Cup

Jim Leighton (39, Scotland)

Filip de Wilde (34, Belgium)
Lothar Matthäus (37, Germany)
Giuseppe Bergomi (34, Italy)
Vital Borkelmans (35, Belgium)

Dunga (34, Brazil)
Carlos Valderrama (36, Colombia)
Gheorghe Hagi (34, Romania)

Anton Polster (34, Austria)
Anthony De Avila (35, Colombia)
Bebeto (34, Brazil)

WORLD CUP BETTING

CROATIA V FRANCE

Nation	C	H	L	S	T
France	4-6	4-6	8-11	4-6	8-13
Draw	11-5	15-8	15-8	15-8	9-4
Croatia	4-1	9-2	4-1	9-2	4-1

CORRECT SCORE

Nation	C	H	L	S	T
France 1-0	9-1	5-1	5-1	5-1	5-1
France 2-0	6-1	13-2	6-1	6-1	6-1
France 2-1	7-1	7-1	7-1	15-2	15-2
France 3-0	11-1	11-1	12-1	11-1	10-1
France 3-1	10-1	12-1	11-1	14-1	10-1
France 3-2	33-1	33-1	28-1	33-1	33-1
France 4-0	33-1	33-1	40-1	33-1	25-1
France 4-1	28-1	33-1	33-1	33-1	22-1
France 4-2	66-1	66-1	50-1	66-1	22-1
0-0	11-2	9-2	11-2	9-2	11-2
1-1	11-2	5-1	11-2	5-1	11-2
2-2	11-1	18-1	20-1	18-1	16-1
Croatia 1-0	8-1	9-1	8-1	9-1	9-1
Croatia 2-0	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1	18-1
Croatia 2-1	16-1	18-1	16-1	18-1	16-1
Croatia 3-0	80-1	80-1	80-1	80-1	66-1
Croatia 3-1	66-1	80-1	66-1	80-1	66-1
Croatia 3-2	66-1	66-1	66-1	66-1	66-1

FIRST GOALSCORER

Nation	C	H	L	S	T
Guivarc'h (F)	11-2	5-1	6-1	11-2	5-1
Henry (F)	11-2	5-1	5-1	6-1	5-1
Trezeguet (F)	11-2	5-1	6-1	6-1	11-2
Djorkaeff (F)	6-1	5-1	6-1	13-2	13-2
Suker (C)	11-2	7-1	6-1	13-2	5-1
Zidane (F)	6-1	8-1	6-1	7-1	6-1
Vlaovic (C)	8-1	9-1	10-1	8-1	15-2
Kapuri (C)	11-1	9-1	14-1	9-1	11-1
Stanic (C)	12-1	14-1	16-1	12-1	12-1
Petit (F)	20-1	16-1	16-1	20-1	18-1
Boban (C)	20-1	20-1	20-1	16-1	22-1
Asanovic (C)	25-1	20-1	25-1	22-1	25-1
Blanc (F)	16-1	25-1	20-1	20-1	18-1
Boghossian (F)	20-1	16-1	20-1	22-1	25-1
Deschamps (F)	33-1	16-1	33-1	33-1	33-1
Jarni (C)	25-1	33-1	25-1	25-1	28-1
Lizarazu (F)	33-1	33-1	33-1	28-1	33-1
Thuram (F)	50-1	33-1	50-1	33-1	40-1

C Coral, H William Hill, L Ladbrokes, S Stanley, T Tote

AVAILABLE AT 66-1 with Ladbrokes when the tournament began but only 11-1 now, **Croatia** can shake up the world by defeating the host nation France (maybe 1-0) in this evening's semi-final in St Denis.

Hit by injury, few gave the World Cup new boys much chance of getting much further than the Group stages, but Croatia have gone from strength to strength. Winners 3-1 and 1-0 over Group H minnows Jamaica and Japan respectively, Croatia were not disgraced in going down 1-0 to Argentina, one of a number of teams now out by virtue of ending up in the toughest half of the second-round draw.

Croatia put in a gritty performance to knock out Romania 1-0 in the second round, but it was the manner in which they ruthlessly exploited their one-man advantage over Germany that really caught the eye. Admittedly the ageing Germans found themselves more susceptible than most after having Christian Wörns dismissed just before half- time but the way in which the Croatians utilised the extra space was impressive. Real Betis's speedy roving left-back Robert Jarni ran riot while the Croatians' talismanic striker Davor Suker posed a constant threat to the German defence.

In the second half the Croatian defence reduced the Germans to hopeful high balls in the general direction of Oliver Bierhoff and the manner in which Croatia's central defenders pragmatically soaked up the pressure before turning the screw with another two late goals.

France, unusually for a nation with strong socialist traditions, have a striking problem. They clobbered small fry South Africa and Saudi Arabia 3-0 and 4-0 and dismissed a below par Denmark 2-1 in the group stages, but have found it extraordinarily difficult to put the ball in the net against the decent opposition they have inevitably run into in the knock-out stages.

Only a golden goal in extra time saw them through against Paraguay, and they only reached this semi-final after beating Italy on penalties following two long hours of goalless play.

Zinedine Zidane and Youri Djorkaeff give them creativity in midfield, but neither David Trezéguet nor Thierry Henry has established himself as a hitman in the mould of **Suker**, who looks the best bet to score what might be the first and only goal of what promises to be an exceptionally tight game.

Ian Davies

SPREAD BETTING

FOR ORIGINALITY it wins no prizes but the top tip for tonight's semi-final is to sell the total goals, widely available at 2.2-2.5. The pre-tournament knock about France – good defence, excellent midfield but, crucially, no strikers – has proved true. Their lack of firepower has seen them forced into extra time despite having the better of their games against Paraguay and Italy.

With a record like that, it is hard to see them scoring many against Croatia who have not conceded a goal in either of their knock-out games. Given that the Croatians have Slaven Bilic and Igor Stimac, two of the Premiership's less trumpeted centre-backs, at the heart of their defence that could hardly have been predicted, but they work hard, and defend in depth and in numbers.

France's defence has been much praised without having to do much. They sauntered through the easiest group in the competition conceding just a penalty to Denmark and have since faced two sides with their own problems up front.

The Croatian attack revolves around Davor Suker with the rest joining in on the counter-attack. They have made an excellent habit of scoring right on half-time – as shown by Suker's twice-taken, match-winning penalty against Romania and Jarni's low drive against the Germans.

So, the French nation could easily be doomed once more to watch its side huff and puff its way to extra time. If a goal does come it is more likely to be later rather than sooner so a buy with Sporting at 37-40 minutes takes the eye.

There is another way at looking at this possible impasse and IG are the only company to quote the time of the last goal – 60-63 minutes.

William Hill and City offer a market on the time of first booking – both go 21-24 minutes – and despite the Croatia's rugged reputation and steely-eyed fighting spirit this could be a sneaky profit-maker as the referee, Jose-Manuel Garcia Aranda of Spain, has shown only six yellow cards in his two matches.

Sporting's 54-58 for total bookings also has some appeal with six players, including Suker and Zvonimir Boban, who are vital to Croatia's chances, a caution away from missing the final (or, far less tear-making, Saturday's third-fourth place play-off).

Richard Wetherell

GROUP STAGES

Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
1 Brazil	3	2	0	1	6	3	6	+3
2 Norway	3	1	2	0	5	4	5	+1
3 Morocco	3	1	1	1	5	5	4	0
4 Scotland	3	0	1	2	2	6	1	-4

Brazil 2 Scotland 1
Morocco 2 Norway 2
Scotland 1 Norway 1
Brazil 3 Morocco 0
Scotland 0 Morocco 3
Brazil 1 Norway 2

Group B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
1 Italy	3	2	1	0	7	3	7	+4
2 Chile	3	0	3	0	4	4	3	0
3 Austria	3	0	2	1	3	4	2	-1
4 Cameroon	3	0	2	1	2	5	2	-3

Italy 2 Chile 2
Cameroon 1 Austria 1
Chile 1 Austria 1
Italy 3 Cameroon 0
Italy 2 Austria 1,
Chile 1 Cameroon 1

Group C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
1 France	3	3	0	0	9	1	9	+8
2 Denmark	3	1	1	1	3	3	4	0
3 S Africa	3	0	2	1	3	6	2	-3
4 S Arabia	3	0	1	2	2	7	1	-5

S.Arabia 0 Denmark 1
France 3 South Africa 0
S. Africa 1 Denmark 1
France 4 Saudi Arabia 0
France 2 Denmark 1
S. Africa 2 S Arabia 2

Group D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
1 Nigeria	3	2	0	1	5	5	6	0
2 Paraguay	3	1	2	0	3	1	5	+2
3 Spain	3	1	1	1	8	4	4	+4
4 Bulgaria	3	0	1	2	1	7	1	-6

Paraguay 0 Bulgaria 0
Spain 2 Nigeria 3
Nigeria 1 Bulgaria 0
Spain 0 Paraguay 0
Spain 6 Bulgaria 1
Nigeria 1 Paraguay 3

Group E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
1 Netherlands	3	1	2	0	7	2	5	+5
2 Mexico	3	1	2	0	7	5	5	+2
3 Belgium	3	0	3	0	3	3	3	0
4 S Korea	3	0	1	2	2	9	1	-7

South Korea 1 Mexico 3
Netherlands 0 Belgium 0
Belgium 2 Mexico 2
Netherlands 5 S Korea 0
Netherlands 2 Mexico 2
Belgium 1 South Korea 1

Group F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
1 Germany	3	2	1	0	6	2	7	+4
2 Yugoslavia	3	2	1	0	4	2	7	+2
3 Iran	3	1	0	2	2	4	3	-2
4 USA	3	0	0	3	1	5	0	-4

Yugoslavia 1 Iran 0
Germany 2 USA 0
Germany 2 Yugoslavia 2
USA 1 Iran 2
Germany 2 Iran 0
USA 0 Yugoslavia 1

Group G

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
1 Romania	3	2	1	0	4	2	7	+2
2 England	3	2	0	1	5	2	6	+3
3 Colombia	3	1	0	2	1	3	3	-2
4 Tunisia	3	0	1	2	1	4	1	-3

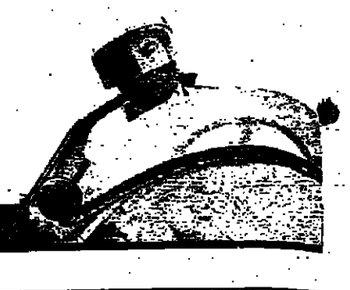
England 2 Tunisia 0
Romania 1 Colombia 0
Colombia 1 Tunisia 0
Romania 2 England 1
Romania 1 Tunisia 1
Colombia 0 England 2

Group H

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
1 Argentina	3	3	0	0	7	0	9	+7
2 Croatia	3	2	0	1	4	2	6	+2
3 Jamaica	3	1	0	2	3	9	3	-6
4 Japan	3	0	0	3	1	4	0	-3

Argentina 1 Japan 0
Jamaica 1 Croatia 3
Japan 0 Croatia 1
Argentina 5 Jamaica 0
Argentina 1 Croatia 0
Japan 1 Jamaica 2.

SPORT

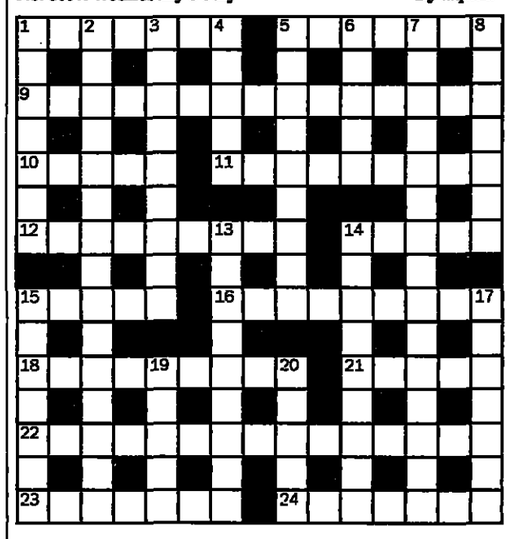


LYNAGH ON THE GLORIOUS SOUTH P22 ● FIFTY YEARS OF THE BRITISH GRAND PRIX P23

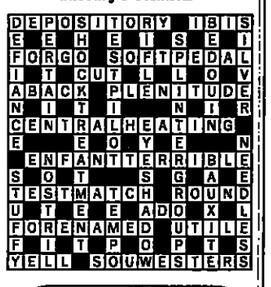
Miroslav Blazevic, the Croatia coach (left), holds court for the world's media, while Didier Deschamps, the France captain (right), hones his volleying skills on court with team-mate Franck Leboeuf *AP/AFP*

THE WEDNESDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3657. Wednesday 8 July — By Aquila



Tuesday's Solution



ACROSS

1 Court cards? (7)
5 Formic remedy for dyspepsia (7)
9 Kind performance, playing Hamlet (6,2,7)
10 Capital approved, put into toy repair (5)
11 County cold at first – flat as a consequence (9)
12 Men with spreads hear scorn poured out (9)
14 Corporation lawyer opens with single piece of information (5)
15 Spice escapade? (5)
16 Transmitted experimental pictures of cricket eccentrics (4,5)
18 Piaf, for example, in France – thence USA, travelling (9)
21 Record order in nightclub (5)
22 Downing Street, in that reform yet? (15)
23 Jack achieves ambitions (7)
24 One cheers as pair hold rent (7)

DOWN

1 Mozart symphony Holst thought jolly? (7)
2 Light dressing of stucco, say? (8,7)
3 Compound reciprocal pronoun in the Horace translation (4,5)
4 Long-suffering sort in cot is disturbed (5)
5 Adopts a facing position, making speeches (9)
6 Strained and imperfect, possibly (5)
7 Marks parts of logs (15)
8 Norfolk's ground, for example (7)
13 Improves make-up with brushes again (9)
14 Now opening church after ten years of corruption (9)
15 Milk container put up by shy proprietor? (7)
17 Small lumberjack a hard worker (7)
19 Bromidic elements of nitrites? (5)
20 Poet's licence to preclude in law (5)

Jacquet must solve Croatian mystery

BY KEN JONES
in Paris

BEFORE CROATIA rose to eminence by defeating Germany for a place in the World Cup semi-finals, there was little in scouting reports to alarm the tournament's survivors.

No wonder that Germany's coach, Berti Vogts, was uncharacteristically contemptuous in his assessment before sending out his team to face Croatia last Saturday in Lyons. Nothing in what Vogts had seen for himself, or in information supplied by his assistants, suggested that Croatia were equipped to mount a serious challenge on their debut in the finals.

Croatia were generally considered to be silky on the ball, artful in application but lacking real purpose. "A keep-ball team," George Graham, the Leeds manager, said this week.

It was the manner of Croatia's 1-0 defeat by Argentina in a group game rather than the result itself that did most to prompt negative appraisal. Never mind Davor Suker's gifts. Aljosa Asanovic's thoughtful passing and the raiding of wing-back Robert Jarni, collectively they were awful.

That, as much as the victory over Germany that made Croatia the first team since Portugal in 1966 to become semi-finalists on a first trip to the World Cup, figures in any assessment of tonight's match against France in Paris.

A sentimental reaction to events in Lyons ignores the affect that Christian Wörns's expulsion shortly before half-time had on an ageing German team. Until then Germany were playing their most assured football in the finals, threatening to overwhelm a team that didn't manage a shot at goal for 32 minutes.

Without the younger legs and minds England had when holding out for an hour after David Beckham's dismissal against Argentina the Germans were broken. "Made for Croatia," is how a neutral observer put it, meaning that they had the skill to take advantage of Germany's depletion by wearing them down with possession football.

However, Croatia's progress has given the France coach, Aimé Jacquet, plenty to think about. After conducting a light training session at the France team's headquarters in the forest of Rambouillet to the south-west of Paris, he expressed mild surprise over Croatia's qualification. "Of course, we know about them," Jacquet said, "but it has been necessary to go into more detail."

To this effect Jacquet has arranged for a video to be compiled from television coverage of Croatia's matches. "Everybody watches the big teams, if it is Brazil, Holland or Italy, but Croatia were not very much in the minds of our players until last Saturday," he said. "They have people we need to look at more closely."

Croatia, who went straight to the Stade de France for practise after arriving in Paris from Vittel, will be encouraged most by the difficulties in attack that has caused their opponents to live dangerously after storming through the group games with nine goals scored and only one conceded.

Since then France have put their supporters through the palpitating anxieties of a "Golden Goal" victory over Paraguay and a penalty shoot-out against Italy last Friday.

France's trademark in these finals has been the speed with which they react to switches in initiative, closing down quickly in defence, then mounting swift, heavily supported counter-attacks. Chelsea's new signing Marcel Desailly has been outstanding as one of three centre-backs. Zinedine Zidane dominant in midfield – when not suspended – but France's strikers have shown little physical presence in the penalty area and there is no natural finisher.

The return from injury of Christophe Dugarry would help, otherwise France are probably stuck with Stéphane Guivarc'h, now of Newcastle, who hasn't looked capable of dealing with the tournament's cumulative pressure. When you add the fact that France have fared little better at delivering the ball from flank attacks than most of the teams in these finals, Jacquet has work to do.

Mingling easily with the hundreds of reporters who descended on their camp (this attitude a contrast with the heavy security under which England preferred to live) Jacquet's players seemed free from tension. They are serious though, not given to the jokes preferred by Croatia's eccentric manager, Miroslav Blazevic.

A media darling since last week's triumph, Blazevic is not always to be taken seriously. "Perhaps France are too good," he said on arrival in Paris. "They have such a good defence, such a good attack. This French team is an obstacle as big as Mont Blanc."

Blazevic speaks of the France wing-backs Lilian Thuram and Bixente Lizarazu with some apprehension. "They come so quickly from defence, go so directly at goal that we will have to watch them all the time," he said.

For France the worry is that Croatia's tall and powerful back line of three will frustrate their attackers and that rash attempts at dispossessing clever midfielders could leave them a man short. For football the hope is that this World Cup semi-final will be remembered for more than the drama of artificially extended matches.

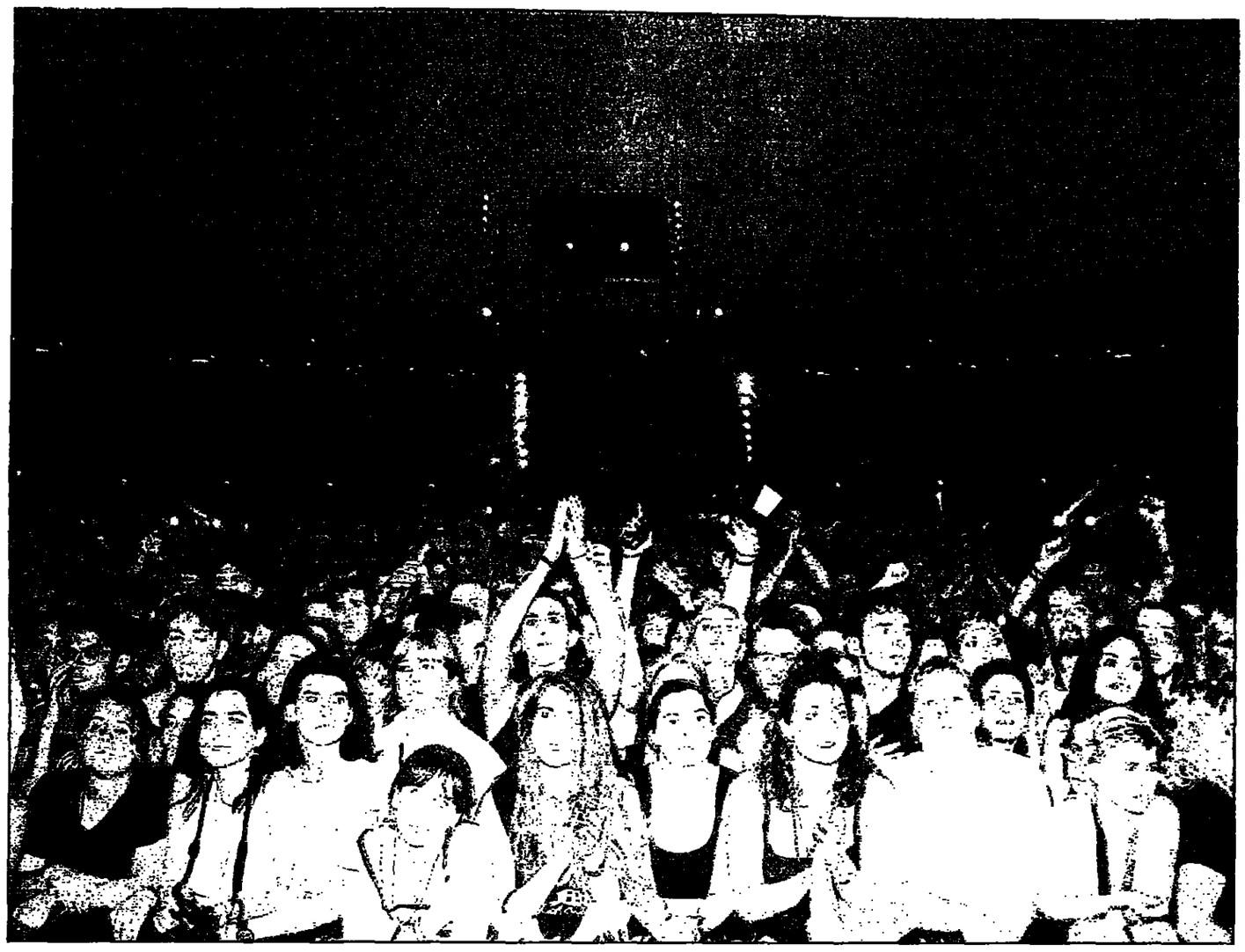
©Published by Independent Newspapers (UK) Limited, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St Albans Road, Watford
Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 01958 841370. Wednesday 8 July 1998
Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office

THE INDEPENDENT

8 July 1998

WEDNESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



Bad news, kids, rock 'n' roll is dead

(or at least, in stadiums the world over, it's looking very peaky indeed)

BY DAVID THOMAS

Pssst! Want a ticket to see Pulp at Finsbury Park on July 25? Because I can get you 10. Then again, you can get 10 yourself, just by calling up the box-office and asking for them. And if you've got a mate with a credit card, he or she can get another 10 tickets at the same time. They're not what you'd call hard to come by.

Or how about the Stones, anywhere in Europe? I've just checked the band's official website and last night's show in Amsterdam was a sell-out, as are the ones in Gothenburg and Hamburg. But those aside, you can go to see them any time between now and the end of September, anywhere from Malaga to Moscow, and you won't have much trouble getting in.

This isn't how it used to be. Ten years ago, stadium rock was the big thing. In the wake of Live Aid, a swing through the stadia was as routine a part of a rock star's life as model girlfriends and tax-avoidance schemes. Anyone who was anyone, and quite a few people who were just Dire Straits or Simple Minds, could count on full houses at Cardiff Arms Park, the Milton Keynes Bowl, Manchester's Maine Road, Leeds' Roundhay Park, Murrayfield in Edinburgh or Glasgow's Ibrox Stadium.

Genuine megastars such as Bruce Springsteen, Madonna, Michael Jackson or the Stones could book Wembley Stadium for a three-, four- or even five-night stand, and punters by the hundred thousands would desperately scrabble to stand at the front, where they would be nearly crushed to death while being sprayed with water, or watch a bunch of musical ants performing in the far distance.

For one of the little-noticed side effects of Live Aid was that it homogenised pop. With the politics of punk long forgotten, there was a vast rock audience, aged 15-40, who no longer looked on music as a factional struggle between different stylistic tribes. To them, it was all just entertainment. They saw no reason why they could not like Tina Turner and Pink Floyd, Rod Stewart and U2, Genesis and Madonna.

But it isn't like that any more. As the recording end of the business is wracked by plummeting sales and savage cuts to record labels' artist-rosters and staffs, the concert market, too, has been coming under attack. The Lighthouse Family – one act whose CD sales have remained bouyant – cancelled a planned outdoor concert at Finsbury Park, having sold less than 1,000 of the 25,000 tickets on offer. A New Order show, planned for the following night, also had to be pulled. The annual Fleadh festival went ahead at the same venue but was far from packed.

Vince Power, whose Mean Fiddler Organisation promoted all three shows, told the *New Musical Express* that "Promoters, including myself, are very good at making excuses for what's happening, rather than facing the writing on the wall. We talk about the World Cup and ticket prices being too dear, but perhaps the truth is that the acts that are around just aren't big enough. Unfortunately, it seems that a band is only as big as its last album. You don't seem to have any long-gigging bands any more that have a live following."

In part, all that has happened is that fans have switched their allegiances from one-off shows to festivals. But that in itself tells a story. Around 100,000 people will attend the two-day V98 festival, which takes place simultaneously in Leeds and Chelmsford next month. But in order to attract them, promoters have had to schedule more than 20 acts per venue per day, which hardly suggests much faith in the pulling power of current stars.

Even the most established superstars are finding life tougher than it was. When Elton John and Billy Joel toured Britain in June, it should have been a triumphant progress for two men with stunning back catalogues of hits, one of whom had just released the most successful single of all time – the updated 'Candle in the Wind'. But the trip was dogged by misfortune: Joel fell ill, a Manchester show had to be cancelled and Sir Elton played Wembley as a solo act. Even when both men were still fighting fit, public response had been less than overwhelming. The tour was being advertised right up to the week it began and just one of the four planned shows – the first of two dates at Wembley – sold out.

The tour's promoter, Tim Parsons, claims that the continued advertising was due to the fact that new seats had become available at the last moment. He defiantly told me, "The deal was across all four shows, so even if one show may have lost money by itself, everyone was still making money." Perhaps, but there were empty seats in Glasgow and plenty more at the double-act's shows in Dublin (which Parsons did not promote).

The same might well have applied to the *Rolling Stones*, had they not cancelled the British leg of their *Bridges to Babylon* tour for tax reasons. Sources at Wembley Stadium say that tickets were selling well for the two Stones shows there, but months after tickets had first gone on sale, there were still 12,000 of the 40,000 seats at Sheffield's Don Valley Stadium waiting to be sold, and the band's own website was still showing availability for all the proposed British dates (as, indeed, it continues to do for the vast majority of their Continental venues, including Paris, where the second of two concerts at the Stade de France has been cancelled).

"The Stones over-pushed," says Harvey Goldsmith, who has promoted Wembley shows for them and virtually every other rock superstar. "This year they were just another act. An open-air show has to be something exciting. But there was a feeling they were just doing it for the money. People didn't feel it was an event."

Mick Jagger might take a dim view of that remark. Musicians who have supported the Stones over the past 12 months report that the old codgers are playing better than ever – their advancing years more than compensated for by a new-found sobriety. Nor have they cut costs in search of a fast buck: the *Bridges to Babylon* show has all the vastly expensive, overwhelmingly spectacular, Cecil B De Mille-style razzmatazz for which the Stones have become known.

But no one ever came away from a rock concert whistling the scenery. And even people involved with successful artists are feeling cautious. Simon Moran is promoting four shows by the Spice Girls this September for which all 180,000 tickets were sold in a week, 80 per cent of them in a single day. But, he says, "Some people thought that they wouldn't sell, and I wasn't sure. Obviously I had some confidence that there was an untapped demand for them, because I had to guarantee a good fee, but I wasn't over-confident and I made sure we did a massive PR and ad campaign."

For the Spice Girls, as for all the shows going ahead at Wembley Stadium this year, the stage has been shifted from the end of the stadium to the side, ensuring a better view for fans, but cutting capacity from 70,000 to 50,000, all of whom are seated. "Everyone has a seat number and a row number," Moran explains. "That allows parents to feel their children are safe. It would have been a recipe for disaster if they were standing."

For Elton John and the Bee Gees, who will also be at Wembley in September, seating is vital for another reason: their fans are too old to stand. So stadia have to be made as un-stadiumy as possible. "Thirtysomethings don't want to sit in a stadium," says Moran. "They're getting older and they much prefer an arena, where they can park the car and have a nice seat. It's much easier to sell tickets for that kind of show".

That was the Lighthouse Family's problem. They can pull punters by the tens of thousands to indoor arenas, but their smooth pop-soul attracts a predominantly female audience – and women, as Wet Wet Wet could have told them, hate stadia. Last year the Wets' proposed tour of outdoor venues, including the Milton Keynes Bowl and Don Valley, was cut back to a single hometown show in Glasgow after terrible advance sales.

"We've learned a drastic lesson," said the band's drummer, Tommy Cunningham. "Our fans like to dress up, get their hair done, put on their make-up. They don't want to sink in the mud."

Even males are having thoughts about the joys of megarock. Today, according to Dave Dorrell, the former music journalist who now manages the British band Bush, "Stadium concerts are over. There are so many new forms of music that rock is just a marginalised genre of its own. There's a lot of struggling to get bums on seats, especially out of London, and it's the same in America. Look at Lollapalooza (the annual US package-tour of alternative rock acts). It's dying because they couldn't find anyone to headline who could guarantee big ticket sales."

Dorrell's opinions are certainly not motivated by sour grapes. Last year, Bush headlined Blockstock, a one-day festival in Texas, sponsored by the Blockbuster video chain, that drew 250,000 fans. But the message he received from his band as they came off-stage was, "Let's never do anything that big again." For Dorrell, "Arena shows may be the ceiling. Once it gets any bigger the thing that's missing is emotion and human presence. All it's about is the stage show, like a second-rate funfair. But you get better effects at the movies."

Stadium shows have something else in common with the movies: they're horrendously expensive to create. A massive set of the sort used by U2 or the Stones can cost tens of millions of pounds. Millions more are spent keeping the band and their enormous numbers of staff on the road, hiring trucks, paying for air fares, hotel rooms and meals, hiring casual labour to erect and dismantle gigantic stages. If a tour goes well, the profits can be correspondingly gigantic. The Stones' Voodoo Lounge trek of 1994-5 is said to have grossed around £200 million in ticket sales and merchandising. But the margin between success and failure can be very slim.

Last year, U2 toured the world with the PopMart show, which featured a stage dominated by a McDonald's-style golden arch: a mobile lemon 40 foot high, and a massive olive on a 100-foot cocktail stick. It was the biggest-grossing tour in America during the first half of 1997, but it wasn't as big as it should have been because the band overestimated their fan base, booked too many stadia and pushed ticket prices too high. The story was the same elsewhere.

According to Dave Dorrell, "U2 planned to go on to Asia, but they never went. If you've costed everything on the basis of a full tour, those missing weeks can really hurt your final above-the-line profit."

Amid all the pessimism, Harvey Goldsmith strongly denies that the days of big shows are over. "The Bee Gees tickets," he says, "are 80 per cent gone and Paul Weller is doing a show in Victoria Park (London) in August: 30,000 tickets and they're going very nicely".

He recently promoted Ozzfest, a heavy-metal fiesta at Milton Keynes, headlined by Ozzy Osbourne and Black Sabbath. With the metal-heads' annual day out at Donnington not taking place this year, the Ozzfest was the only big show catering to the black leather and studs brigade, who duly turned up en masse.

"It far exceeded my expectations," says Goldsmith. "There were just under 50,000 people and the average age was 18-20. I was amazed how well the bands were received. People were grabbing me by the arm afterwards and saying, 'That's the best fuckin' show I've ever been to.' It was a great day out and there was no trouble at all."

The reason it went so well, according to Goldsmith, is simple. "It's pantomime. The punters get dressed up and have a good time. The artists go out and entertain the people, and give them what they want."

Pantomime and entertainment may be concepts with which a hoary old pro like Ozzy Osbourne is happy to deal, but they don't cut much ice with modern bands. One of the reasons why acts such as Radiohead don't play stadia is not because they can't, but that they refuse to do so. Their spokesperson Terri Hall says, "Radiohead could fill Wembley tomorrow, but they don't want things to become too big. They even felt that their last arena tour was a step too far. Thom [Yorke, the band's singer] felt it wasn't what he wanted."

According to Steve Sutherland, editor of the *New Musical Express*, "All the Britpop bands went under the tabloid microscope, and the next generation of bands, who saw that happen, truly do not want anything to do with being pop stars. They don't want to put on a show. Oasis tried that on their *Be Here Now* tour and fell flat on their faces. Having a giant clock on-stage just looked stupid. It was pantomime, it wasn't credible."

So, there you have it. You can either be an ageing panto-artiste, dress up in silly clothes and hope to goodness your crumbly old fans book their stadium seats before they finally keel over.

Or you can be a moody young thing and restrict yourself to small venues or festivals where you're just one attraction amid a mass of other acts, dance tents, giant TV screens, nipple-piercing booths and dodgy burger stalls.

According to Dave Dorrell, "The underlying question is, how will people take their dose of music in the future? The whole *raison d'être* of music may be changing. I get the feeling that clubbing, which is an attempt to create a holistic approach to music entertainment – with dancing, lights and everything else, in a dedicated environment – may be closer to the model of the future."

That's right, the future consists of a giant club, filled with acid-brained, strobe-dazzled teenies, dancing to mindless, tuneless, hyper-repetitive techno-trash. To which a crumbling thirtysomething can only say, "Come back Wembley. All is forgiven."

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FIVE PAGES OF FINANCE

A man for all reasons

THERE SEEMS to be some confusion about how lobbyists operate, so let me explain the whole thing to you, simply and quietly. Take my own case, for example, from my own everyday life.

I am sitting quietly by myself writing an article in my little office on the 35th floor of Canada Dry, the huge building in Canary Wharf where I work.

What I am doing is writing an article fiercely attacking the way in which in all the bath taps for the Millennium Dome have been supplied by a firm in which Peter Mandelson has a major interest.

I don't know if this is actually true. I suspect it isn't. In fact I'm damn sure it isn't. What I intend to do is write the article first and adjust the facts later, once I have flushed them out into the open. It's an old journalistic technique. It's known as "Big Feature, Small Apology".

MILES KINGTON

The man sitting in my office in Canary Wharf is actually a decoy Miles Kington

Just as I am writing the heading for the story ("Minister in Massive Plumbing Scandal!"), there is a knock at the door and there stands a lobbyist called, let us say, Adrian Wardour-Street.

"Hi, there, Miles," he says. "Word's around that you're doing a piece on the government/plumbing link. Great! The government is very interested in things like that. Maybe you and I could have lunch, talk things over, have a head-to-head on EU directives on plug design..."

That's what he's for. To help me understand issues and get facts straight. A lobbyist is famous for the way he searches out the truth. What he does with the truth when he finds it is another matter...

"Adrian," I say," I'd love to have lunch with you. But this is Canary Wharf, for God's sake. There isn't a proper restaurant between here and..."

At this point Adrian pulls in a hamper from the corridor outside, and whisks it open. "Lunch is served. Game pie, dear boy ?" he says. "Pâté? Champagne?"

Now, there is one flaw in *this scenario. I don't work in* Canary Wharf. I really sit in a small house in west Wiltshire, scratching away at my column with an old quill pen, as it has been done in this part of Wilts for over 200 years. I then tap it into a word processor and modem it to Canary Wharf. The man sitting in my office in Canary Wharf is actually a decoy Miles Kington, diverting unwelcome intruders from my peaceful home.

He is, if you like, *my* lobbyist who does my dirty work in London.

"Miles, dear boy. Mind if I come in?"

Startled, I look up at the French windows leading to the palatial garden of my secret home in west Wiltshire. There, smiling in the aperture, is Adrian Wardour-Street, *lobbyist supreme.*

"Adrian!" I say. "I thought you were hundreds of miles away in Canary Wharf, talking to my doppelganger!"

"Not quite," he says, coming in and making himself at home. "Your doppelganger is *talking to someone all right,* but it's *my* doppelganger he's talking to. This is the real me, taking a day out of London. The thing is, old boy, word has got around that you're doing *a piece today on how the* lobby system works, and I thought it might be nice if we popped out to the local brasserie and talked it through over lunch."

"Adrian," I say, "this is the West Country! There isn't a decent bistro between here and..."

"No problem," says Adrian, producing a disused airline trolley brimming over with cassoulet and galantine. "Now, about the way the lobby works..."

What Adrian doesn't know, of course, is that I am one step ahead of him again. The man he is giving lunch to just this side of Somerset is not me at all, but another standin who takes my place at vacation time. I am at present on holiday in the delightful little *French town of Douvres-*sur-Mer, strolling in the market, past a stall selling caged birds, and wondering if birds are sold here for their song, or to be eaten. After all, in Britain we used to eat sky larks and rook pie... Maybe that is why it is called Canary Wharf. Maybe that's where the cage birds got bought and sold in the old days...

Just then my shoulder is grasped: "Bonjour, Miles," says Adrian Wardour-Street. "Sorry to interrupt your holiday, but word is going round that you're doing a piece on the historic implications of Canary Wharf, and I think I may be in a position to put you straight. Fact is, canaries were in great demand as gas warnings down coal mines, and it was at Canary Wharf that shiploads of canaries were landed in the old days en route to the coal lodes. Nowadays EU regulations have banned this custom..."

As he drones on about *what the government hopes* to do for caged songbirds, I dip down an alley and make good my escape. For the moment, anyway. But I hope I have given you some idea of how the lobby works in the real world.

The latest in this week's series celebrating 50 years of the NHS features some furry occupants of the children's ward at Addenbrooke's hospital, Cambridge *Brian Harris*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

Orangemen's 'rights'

Sir: The biggest parade Orangemen have mounted over the past ten days is the ceaseless outpouring of mendacity on our television screens by dozens of "loyalist" spokespersons. If they think that their absurd proclamation of their "right" to prance down a small stretch of road where they are not wanted justifies the disruption and violence which their supporters are yet again inflicting upon Ulster so as to remain top dogs convinces a single sane person on mainland Britain, they are sadly deceived. Oswald Mosley, of course, made similar claims about his infamous antics in London's East End.

As a United Kingdom taxpayer, I strenuously object to a single penny of my taxes going to defray the already enormous costs to the state of "Drumcree" and its consequences. Parliament should pass emergency legislation making the Orange Order corporately and individually liable for the entire costs of the security operation and all resulting damage.

If we did not realise it before, it is now abundantly apparent that the *only "loyalty" these people have is to* themselves.
A E G WRIGHT
London NW2

Sir: A solution to the stand-off at Drumcree would be for the loyalist marchers to follow their traditional route and then a day later the nationalist community to march over the same roads with their own banners and music. Then freedom of speech and assembly would have been upheld and toleration of opposing views applied: in fact, democracy.
JONATHAN NEWCOMBE
Huddersfield

Act now in Kosovo

Sir: As happened over Bosnia, the European Union is dithering over Kosovo. When Paddy Ashdown and Robert Fisk (Comment, 3 July; 30 June) come to a similar conclusion about the impending catastrophe, the EU governments should take note – and take action.

In the last parliament, there was only a small group of us who consistently urged military action in place of the pusillanimity of our then government and the rest of the EU. It is only by air strikes now against Serb attacks in Kosovo that an enlarged conflagration can be halted. As Ashdown and Fisk agree, the KLA are there to stay and may pursue not autonomy within Serbia (which Milosevic withdrew some years ago) but independence. It would be more realistic now to accept that independence is inevitable and to make political preparations for the resulting changes in Albania and Macedonia. But first, and imminently, air strikes must be mounted against Milosevic's murderous actions in Kosovo.
ANDREW FAULDS
Stratford-upon-Avon
Warwickshire

Sir: Paddy Ashdown's hidden agenda is to reconcile an eventual Greater Albania with the inviolability of present borders ("We must intervene in Kosovo now", 3 July). He would force Serbia into granting Kosovo autonomy "broadly along the lines enjoyed by Montenegro". This can only mean a federal unit with the right to secede. His logic would appear to be that internal administrative lines defining federal units, such as Croatia, were inviolable, but not the international frontier between Serbia and Albania dating back to 1912; Serbia can be eventually partitioned but not Bosnia; and Kosovo should as a first step have its autonomy restored, but the Krajina Serbs' former constitutional status as one of Croatia's two historical nations need not be restored, let alone their right of return to their ancestral Krajina lands.

To recognise the Kosovo Albanians' right to self-determination would also be destabilising. In the first instance, Macedonia's integrity would be imperiled, given its large Albanian minority. Then it might be the turn of Slovakia and Romania, both harbouring a large Hungarian minority. And so on.

The only principled action open to Nato at present is to stem the flow of weapons to the KLA by sealing Albania's border with Kosovo. This would provide a breathing spell during which violence would subside and the position of the pacifist Rugova be strengthened against the terrorist KLA, thus paving the way for a resumption of talks.
YUGO KOVACH
Twickenham,
Middlesex

Classical radio

Sir: The justification for a public service radio station is that (a) it caters for an audience that is not catered for elsewhere, and (b) the audience consists of more than an esoteric handful of devotees.

We have recently been regaled with the costs of Covent Garden. Even if no one attended more than once in a year its total audience would amount to no more than 800,000. For the listener who enjoyed substantial parts of the historic Radio 3/Third Programme output, there was no alternative station, public or commercial. We then need to consider how many of these people there are, and what the state, via the BBC, is prepared to spend on them. Only then does it make sense to discuss how much of the appropriate output is cheap recorded playtime, how much modestly costly live chamber music played by young hopefuls, and how much very costly in-house symphony orchestras, and so on ("A classic dilemma for the BBC as Radio 3's controller departs", 7 July).

Like many British institutions, Radio 3 has been the victim of conflicting agendas.

One can only see the huge establishment of orchestras as some sort of national symbol – a sort of cultural gun-boat. If that is wanted by the powers that be, fair enough. But, if they are then going to *compare the cost with the cost* per listener-hour of Classic FM, they are being disingenuous, if not plain silly.

Only thinking based on the crudest number-crunching could have justified the panic in recent years in reaction to Classic FM. The two stations were catering for an audience that wanted only R3-type output, another that wanted only CFM-type output, and another that wanted a bit (or lot) of both. *Personally, I did not listen to CFM,* and now find that there is much less to listen to on R3.

While anyone would regret lower employment of living musicians, if the choice is between a diet of complete works on disc and one of snippets of tunes from the classics, I would favour the former because CFM provides the latter, and it is silly to duplicate. I am not sneering at CFM. For those who care about the future of music, it provides a vital introductory function from which future R3 audiences may be expected to come.

It makes no sense to conduct the debate with vague figures of 2.6 million listeners to Radio 3 and 5 million to CFM. We need, at least, some indication of listener-hours to set against the millions of pounds.

I suspect both stations would do *better if they abandoned their* obsession with "children's hour" jolly presenters. The BBC would have a better claim if it provided decent FM signals throughout populated Britain. Don't come and live here if you want decent reception.
BRIAN ALLT
Sudbury,
Suffolk

Killers of Bills

Sir: Michael Brown' parliamentary sketch "Government whip plays Guy Fawkes with Private Members' hopes" (4 July) was highly misleading for two reasons.

First, in commenting on the blocking of Bills by Eric Forth MP he states "Mr Forth is not, as his critics would have us believe, anti-democratic. He believes it is wrong to smuggle legislation through Parliament without debate." Just two of the Bills killed show that the idea that Mr Forth's blocking tactics are designed to "ensure debate" is nonsense.

The Fireworks Bill was passed by the full House of Commons in December. Since then it has had a committee stage, report stage and then been given a third reading by the full House. It has also been approved by the full House of Lords. Yet Mr Forth and one or two of his Tory colleagues imposed *their will on both* Houses of Parliament on Friday last by talking the Bill out.

The Energy Efficiency Bill had a five-hour debate at second reading in January and a full committee stage in March. Since then every MP has had three months to table amendments for last Friday's report stage. None did – thus the report stage was a formality. Yet by shouting "object" on Friday Mr Forth imposed his will on that of the full House of Commons.

Mr Brown is also misleading in comparing this with the action of the Government whip Jim Dowd MP, in blocking "29 Bills in five minutes". As a result Mr Brown calls Mr Dowd "the real Guy Fawkes".

However, the Bills that Mr Dowd "blocked" were Bills that had been presented, either formally or with a ten-minute speech, simply to raise issues or start campaigns. They had had no debate and no approval *from the House: as such they were* not designed to become law – at least not yet. It is wrong to compare the so-called blocking of these Bills with Mr Forth's blocking of Bills that had been approved by the House.
RON BAILEY
Parliamentary Co-ordinator
Friends of the Earth
London N1

No legal fix

Sir: Paul McCann ("How Martin joined the ranks of the rich and famous", 30 June) repeats an allegation contained in the *Daily Mail* of 24 June that Martin Bashir "promised to get Louise Woodward into King's College to study law". As I pointed out in a letter to the *Daily Mail* published on 29 June, "No one can 'fix it' for Ms Woodward or anyone else to study law or anything else at King's College London. This Law School and King's College as a whole admit students only on the basis of academic and other relevant abilities".

I find it surprising that no steps were taken to check the accuracy of the allegation with the college – particularly when your reporter appears to have taken the trouble to check parts of his story with the BBC.
Professor ROBIN MORSE
Head of the School of Law
King's College London
London WC2

Church divided

Sir: You are correct to voice concern over the developments in the Roman Catholic Church (leading article, 3 July). Some commentators would claim that the reform of the Church has been hampered from the beginning by the failure of even the "reforming Popes" to revise the membership of the bureaucracy in general and the Curia in particular.

However, the Church is more than just the hierarchy, and such writers as the late Bishop Butler correctly pointed out that the role of the Pope, and in fact his infallibility, depended in earlier times on the perceived guidance of the Holy Spirit within the body of the faithful.

Sadly, we can spend much time in the Church being either "progressive" or "traditional" and thus perhaps assuming a predetermined position over every issue, whilst the Vatican can hardly gain in credibility by attempting an authoritarian position.

Whilst we are spending energy on our internal tensions we are failing in our mission to be the serving presence of God to humanity at this moment of history. Perhaps Bede Griffiths was correct when he asked, *has the established church reached* a position similar to that of Judaism which brought about the reforms of Jesus?
J S McLORINAN
Weston-super-Mare, Somerset

Sir: Owen Gwynne (letter, 2 July) is of course quite free to believe in a "God" of his own choosing who inhabits those 90 per cent non-rational bits of his experience and personality. In fact *this is no more than Blake's view that* "all deities reside in the human breast". Interestingly, this is very much the Sea of Faith position, which sees religion as a human creation. Needless to say, traditional monotheism is scornful of such views.

The veracity of theism must link two poles: cosmology (what is out there) and evolutionary psychology (how we have come to know what is out there). On the basis of modern knowledge in both these areas we are in a position to understand that religious belief in some ultimate *being is a fiction of human design* – perhaps a necessary fiction, explanatory of the kind of beings we are, but a fiction none the less.
Fr DOMINIC KIRKHAM
Manchester

IN BRIEF

Sir: In his attempt to defend the lobbying industry, Charles Miller (Right of Reply, 7 June) has skilfully managed to avoid the most worrying aspect of his members' business: that they operate by exploiting their ability to make political contacts in return for money. The "people whom [we] elect and whose salaries [we] pay" are supposed to act for all of us, not just those who can afford the lobbyists' fees.
PETER WILKINS
Brighton, East Sussex

Sir: Austin Spreadbury takes me to task for ignoring existing EU tax harmonisation (Letters, 3 July). Of course, a limited harmonisation of VAT and excise duties came in with the Single Market in 1992, and similar measures for tax on interest are now being discussed. It can even be said that harmonisation of corporation tax and energy taxes are on the table, albeit in terms of co-operation, not legislation. What is beyond the realms of probability is harmonisation of income tax, let alone the "harmonisation of tax, pensions and eventually welfare provisions".
GREGORY WILLIAMS
Watford, Hertfordshire

Sir: English is not the only language which permits *tmesis*, the insertion of one word in the middle of another (Words, 2 July); you wouldn't need to travel very far to hear Welsh speakers add emphasis to their word for "hopeless" (*anobeithiol*) by saying *anoblydibeithiol*. This is quite *common in speech.*

There is also a famous use of *tmesis* by the greatest Welsh hymn writer, William Williams (1717-1791), who in 1764 wrote *Yn Constant fawr inople ei drigfan ef y sydd.* ("His dwelling is in Constant-great-inople.")
GWYN NEALE
Pwllheli, Gwynedd

THE REVIEW DAY BY DAY

MONDAY REVIEW

As well as our regular columnists, features and expanded comment pages, Network, our information technology section, moves to Monday.

TUESDAY REVIEW

An improved media section, with appointments, moves to Tuesday. Visual arts and more health pages are also Tuesday regulars

WEDNESDAY REVIEW

Fashion, midweek money pages, in addition to finance and secretarial sections (previously City+) will stay on Wednesday

THURSDAY REVIEW

Our education section will appear as a separate tabloid section. Improved and expanded film pages now move to Thursday

FRIDAY REVIEW

The architecture and science pages now move to Friday. In addition, we will have a new law section and our music pages

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The spectre of sleaze will not be exorcised by spin doctors

FOR A government that is supposedly built on PR, the past three days have been remarkably inept. When the "cash for access" story broke at the weekend, the government's first response was silence. That at least had the merit of honesty. Now it has gone on the attack: its line, however, is disingenuous in the extreme. The *Observer* journalists who spoke to Roger Liddle of the Downing Street Policy Unit at a cocktail party did not tape record their conversation. That is the sum of the Government's defence. Apparently the absence of a tape recording means that we can all sleep easily at night in the knowledge that the Government is as squeaky clean as it claims.

If ever there has been a more blatant and tawdry attempt to obscure an issue, we have yet to see it. The two journalists apparently made a detailed contemporaneous note of their conversation with Mr Liddle. But Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's spokesman, has now added the setting of new judicial precedents to his duties. It is normal practice for policemen to use their notebooks in court as evidence. And when journalists have had to give evidence, judges have almost always accepted contemporaneous notes as a true record. According to Mr Campbell, however, the only valid evidence is a tape recorded conversation.

This is laughable stuff and fools no one. It is perfectly possible that Mr Liddle is indeed without blemish and that the specific allegations against him are baseless. But the wider question of the role and influence of lobbyists and a propensity towards cronyism is of pressing concern. When the electorate voted in such numbers to remove the Conservatives it did so not least because it was sick of sleaze.

Labour promised to be whiter than white. At best it is greyer than grey. Mr Blair let barely a day go by in opposition without calling for some wretched member of the last Government to be investigated. That the Government now has the cheek to argue that it can ignore valid concerns about its own behaviour defies belief. The issues raised go to the heart of good governance and are precisely the sort of thing that Lord Neill's Committee on Standards in Public Life should be charged with investigating. The Government should announce that is referring the entire matter to Lord Neill immediately and show that it takes these issues seriously.

If the Government thinks that, by shutting its eyes and hoping, things will blow over, it is sorely out of touch with the real world. The more it seeks to close down the story, and the more it wriggles around on dubious exculpatory defences, the more it gives credence to the notion that there really is something for it to be ashamed of.

Lobbyists are an ever-present and, in some cases, necessary part of government. If, for instance, a trade association wishes to press for a change in the law, it needs expert advice as to how best to achieve its end. That is perfectly proper. Where lobbying descends into sleaze is when politicians allow themselves to work too closely with lobbyists who peddle their access to and influence on government. This is a government that is supposedly committed to freedom of information. If the process of government, let alone the information it holds, was more open then there would be less scope for the Derek Drapers of this world to "stuff their bank accounts" on the back of their address books. At the moment, however, this is a government which seeks to have it both ways – a supposed commitment to open government at the same time as a dependence on a closed "circle" (as the asinine Mr Draper puts it) of those who are of "the project" (as Mr Blair himself puts it) – whether employed in government or lobby companies. This is the heart of the problem, and as long as government remains so incestuous, this is a story that will not go away.

Don't bully the homeless

IF A tendency towards cronyism is one of the government's most damaging flaws, another is its penchant for authoritarianism. Say a big hello to the Homelessness Tsar, who joins his all-powerful namesake, the Drug Tsar. We will ignore the contradiction in terms: there can, by definition, only be one all-powerful emperor. The government seems to think that the best way to attack a problem is to appoint a Tsar. No doubt Eddie George will soon be rechristened Interest Rate Tsar. At times, this seems to be a government obsessed with the worst kind of superficiality.

Look underneath the gloss, however, and some of the Social Exclusion Unit's actual recommendations make a lot of sense. If Welfare To Work is to be fully effective, it needs to deal with those who are so far on the edge of society that in many cases they are not even on welfare. Removing the normal six month wait to join the Gateway (the entry into the Government's training programme) should help with cutting through many of the most stupid bureaucratic problems. As the Government recognises, the only lasting route out of any form of poverty is a job. And any improvement in linking the approach of separate departments – Department of Social Security, Department of Education and Employment, and local authorities – is to be welcomed.

But alongside these sensible ideas looms the worrying authoritarian side of the Government. Most of those who sleep on the streets are there because they feel they have no choice. Providing more hostels is, of course, sensible. But acceptance of a hostel bed should be entirely voluntary. Many of the homeless have fled violence at home. For perfectly sensible reasons, they shy away from hostels full of junkies and violence. Beyond that, for others sleeping on the streets is a perfectly valid – if rather difficult to understand – lifestyle choice. It is no business of government to tell people where they should sleep.

Spice up the clergy

THE SYNOD of the Church of England has decided to advertise for Bishops in an attempt to attract more "relevant" candidates. Succesful applicants will presumably be under 40 and connected to the upper echelons of the Labour Party. Or perhaps Chris Evans? Or what about a new career in theology for that role model to a generation, Ginger Spice? Any other takers?

Welcome to the ideology-free world of the New Labour lobbyist

KEN LIVINGSTONE

The party has gone so far to the right that most of the bright young things see ideology as wrapping paper

TEN YEARS ago I received an invitation from Derek Draper to address his Labour Student Club. Out of all the thousands of meetings I have done, you might ask why this one meeting is still so clear in my memory.

There was about an hour to go before my train to London and so Derek invited myself and several others back to his bedsit for coffee. I have never forgotten the shock, as I walked in, to see hanging above his bed a vast photograph of Roy Hattersley.

Later that week I took considerable pleasure in informing Roy he had a fan, but no sooner had Derek come to London than he ditched Roy and attached himself to the rising star of Peter Mandelson. Oddly enough I have always found Derek a charming and entertaining companion on the frequent occasions when our paths have quite crossed since then.

Derek is a typical – but perhaps the most extreme – example of all the bright young apparatchiks who orbit the star of New Labour. Not quite Walter Mitty but sufficiently barmy to be good fun as the night wears on. Unfortunately far too many of them have been transmogrified from loyal party apparatchiks into ghastly new lobbyists.

What is extraordinary about the access of lobbyists to senior policy-makers and even politicians is not the hyperbole and self-importance of these overpaid young men, but the real problem of democracy which it implies.

It is partly a product of the approach of a small clique of political activists in the Labour Party who regard ideology as an aberration. They have become known as the Millbank Tendency, but in fact, they call themselves The Project. It may sound like an episode from *The X-Files*, but it is a lot worse than that.

What has been revealed is that a group of lobbyists with good connections in government have exploited those connections. That may be corrupt in the sense that parliamentary democracy has long ceased to be a level playing field – you don't have to be rich to play, but it helps.

But it is not the corruption of the last Tory administration, in which politicians took cash to manipulate Parliament itself. No politicians have been implicated in the revelations. None of the lobbyists paid anything to any MPs, although they certainly got paid quite a lot themselves.

But these are not just lobbyists. They are activists too. There is a significant cross-over between those who lobby on behalf of massive corporations, and those who run the little groups of foot-soldiers in the Labour Party and who claim to speak on behalf of the rank and file.

The party has gone so far to the right that most of the bright young things who gather at receptions and in think-tanks regard ideas as an add-on; they see ideology as wrapping paper, a matter of re-branding here, a Third Way there and the odd bit of vision every now and then. Consequently they are prime fodder for the ideology-free world of the lobbyist.

Several of the key players in this week's revelations got where they are today by being the most "reliable", "on-message" and committed activists carrying out the new sub-Thatcherite agenda. Their political opinions make fascinating reading.

The most effective right-wing hacks have been sucked into lobbying and policy wonking, a sort of self-perpetuating little group – The Project – whose access not only to ministers but to each other and to full-time Labour Party officials is well beyond the reach of the ordinary party members.

One of the reasons Derek Draper is so attractive a commodity in the lobbying world is that he has his own political education magazine, *Progress*, giving him a base in the party that makes his profile more genuine.

It is no exaggeration to say that there is virtually a generation of young Labour Party hacks who are both activists for groupings such as the Young Fabians, the LCC, Labour 2000 and Progress, and are simultaneously part of a network of lobbyists, corporations and policy wonks.

The other big name in this week's revelations is of course the ever-lovely Roger Liddle, whom I have known even longer than Derek Draper. We first crossed swords at a meeting of the London Labour Party regional executive in 1981.

Islington North Labour Party had so dissolved into anarchy that it could not select a candidate to fight the forthcoming GLC election. Three meetings had been abandoned as the local party was deadlocked between the left-wing candidate Steve Bundred and Roger Liddle. Finally the Regional Executive decided we would select the candidate

While most of the right-wing members of the executive wanted to support Roger, several of them were worried that he might be about to defect and join the SDP, which was soon to be launched. Roger left no doubt in any of our minds, as he assured us that he had no intention of ever leaving the Labour Party, and he felt insulted and humiliated that question had even been posed.

A few months later Roger defected to the SDP; but like most of the people at that night's selection meeting, I had no doubts that this had been a difficult decision arrived at only at the last minute.

Imagine my surprise therefore when a decade later, when all the definitive histories of the SDP were finally published, I read that Roger had gone straight from our meeting to a caucus with Roy Jenkins and the Gang of Four where they had planned the actual mechanism for the establishment of the SDP.

I assume Roger won't be calling myself or any other members of the then London Labour Party executive as a character witness if this all ends up in the libel courts.

William Hague can bluster for the resignation of Roger Liddle as much as he likes. He won't be sacked and he won't resign because he has not done anything even approaching the level of filth and sleaze that helped destroy the Tory party at the last election. Nonetheless, it is a bizarre quirk of fate that it should be Mr Liddle, whose presence at the heart of power is symbolic of the changes in the Labour Party, who should have become the focus of the controversy.

Having been an advisor to the last Labour government, Mr Liddle was one of the renegades who helped put Labour in opposition for nearly two decades by splitting the party and forming the SDP. He supported the Liberal-SDP merger, the Alliance, the Liberal Democrats (even writing their 1995 European manifesto) before seeing the light and rejoining the Labour Party. He has not changed, but the Labour Party's approach to politics certainly has, and that is part of the problem.

The contempt in which some of the lobbyists hold Labour politicians was revealed by Neal Lawson, one of the lobbyists quoted in Sunday's exposé, who says: "The Labour Government is always in one of two minds; it operates in a kind of schizophrenia." Perhaps it is time for the Labour Government to make its mind up about The Project.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I accept that I am guilty of being an occasional big-mouth, but nothing else."
Derek Draper, suspended lobbyist and former Peter Mandelson aide

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"If you live long enough, you will find that every victory turns into a defeat."
Simone de Beauvoir, French author

MONITOR

THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

Benjamin Netanyahu's popularity plummets

"LACK OF credibility is more than a personal political problem for Netanyahu. A leader who is not trusted, even by other politicians, drastically reduces his room to maneuver in any situation, since each party believes that only public pressure will ensure that promises are kept. On the international level, Netanyahu's lack of credibility translates into agreements being harder to achieve, and being constantly open to accusations of stalling. The issue here is not some unrealizable and perhaps even detrimental standard of honesty, but a level of credibility necessary for the proper function of government at home and in international affairs. Netanyahu should make the restoration of his credibility a top priority – by delivering on promises, and by watching what he says in private, not just in public."
Editorial in 'Jerusalem Post'

"It is for the benefit of the Arabs to have this Netanyahu remain President of Israel, he behaves like an unleashed bull which destroys everything and which, eventually, will undermine all the endeavours and ambitions of Israel to control the policies and the economies of the Arab world."
Muhammad Qobrtay in 'Al Arab'

"How can there ever be peace when the Palestinians have no rights...? A referendum for Bibi to conduct would be a moral assessment of the way Israel was established and how a whole country of an innocent people was taken away from them against their will, how millions of Palestinian refugees have no hope of ever returning to their land and how countless innocent Palestinian civilians, including women and children, have been massacred in order to appease the appetite of a Frankenstein, who obviously has no moral conscience and is ruthless in his behaviour towards the Palestinians, who still dare to dwell on what is left of their own land."
Editorial in 'Palestine Times'

"As for Netanyahu, he wants it both ways. First he wants to continue denying Palestinians a state inside the negotiations. Then he wants to make sure the Palestinians do not get a state outside the negotiations. Do not leave the table, he gravely warns, even as he denies the Palestinians satisfaction at the table. In his self-focus, he seems oblivious to what is surely the basic political fact of the 20th century, that one people cannot rule another without its consent. Or, if he is not oblivious, he has just not mustered the political courage to cut his ties to his extremist coalition partners."
Editorial in 'Washington Post'

PANDORA

"I CAN get to see Ed Balls," Derek Draper reportedly told *The Observer*'s investigative reporter. This astonishing boast made jaws drop across the nation – and throughout the Treasury – on Sunday morning. How brazen and, frankly, incredible of Draper to claim that he could gain access to the Chancellor's 31-year-old chief economic advisor who, according to Pandora's sources, is the most difficult man to meet in the entire Government.

"It's literally easier to meet with Tony Blair than it is to see Ed Balls," a source told Pandora this week. "I know of at least one case in which, having been refused a meeting with Balls, some corporate high-fliers turned to Downing Street and were able to sit down with the Prime Minister the very next day." Another source – again insisting on anonymity – described a constant queue of Treasury officials waiting hopefully outside Balls' office. If Draper can arrange a meeting with Balls, then he is (was?) a man with almost superhuman powers within the "Charmed Circle". At the very least, he sure can swagger with style.

Downing Street is not taking this matter seriously?

HOW FLATTERING to receive a personal note from Harold Brooks-Baker, publishing director of 'Burke's Peerage', along with a press release for a Burke's Peerage Mastercard. (The impoverished landed gentry will be pleased to learn that this "aristocrat of credit cards" is also available in a gold card version "for those who earn over £20,000".) "We have greatly admired the contents of your diary," Brooks-Baker writes to Pandora, "especially when they have related to royal matters." As readers know well, this diary never misses an opportunity to laud the Royals. But which forelock-tugging items did he most enjoy? A telephone call cleared this up immediately. B-B said, "I read every newspaper imaginable, every day. At the end of it, I can't remember what I've read."

SUPERMARKET chain Asda gave away 100,000 free peaches to children this weekend as a protest over an EU ban on undersized fruit. This must be especially gratifying for Archie Norman, chief executive of the Conservative Party and chairman of Asda, as it allowed him to express his fervent euro-scepticism while promoting his own business interests. It also suggests to Pandora an appropriately belligerent campaign slogan for William Hague's New Tories: "We'll fight them on the peaches."

IT'S TRUE, our American cousins sometimes do lack a sense of irony. The latest proof came yesterday in Liz Smith's gossip column for the *New York Post*. While plugging the new blockbuster film *Armageddon*, Liz compares it to *Deep Impact* and asserts, without a nano-shred of irony, "They are as unalike as any two asteroid movies can be." She adds helpfully, "*Deep Impact* is sort of the thinking man's disaster movie."

THE MAILSACKS have been piling up with offers of support for our Anti-Rucksack On The Tube Campaign. (To the man who sent in the yellow nylon shoulder strap spattered with reddish fluid: this Campaign adheres to strict principles of non-violence!) A typical example of the impassioned support Pandora has been receiving was the note from Judy Marshall of Dulwich in south London. "Congratulations on your Campaign. I was quietly reading 'The Independent' perched on a bar stool in Victoria Street Pret-à-Manger when a blow from a rucksack felled me to the ground. Yours truly..." All we can say is, Judy, you are not alone. (Watch this space for an announcement of the Campaign's first demonstration.)

In his letter to The Times of 1 July, Alastair Campbell (right) poured scorn on the BBC's programme *The World at One*, writing, "Very few people – in politics or the media – take *The World at One* seriously." So where was Peter Mandelson yesterday, commenting on the behaviour of his former aide Derek Draper? *The World at One* of course. Can we conclude that Downing Street is not taking this matter seriously?

Where did the rest of the term go?

DAVID LISTER

Every summer teachers blow the chance to show their charges what real education for life is about

BURN-OUT, brought on by the traumas of GCSE exams, seems to have struck down the nation's 16-year-olds. They lie in bed, or snuggle down to watch daytime TV. The fitter and more determined may perhaps summon the energy to play a little sport, or gloomily seek a dwindling supply of temporary jobs.

Alas, burn-out has hit the country's staff rooms, too. Teachers, suffering their own post-invigilation trauma, have lost the will to teach. All over the country, 16-year-olds have been told the term is over, wished the very best of luck and sent out into the long summer break.

The curious thing is that the school term still has two weeks to run. As GCSEs finished a week ago, that means that nearly a third of the term is quietly written off.

I would not want to take action over this myself, as I have a son in the throes of post-GCSE burn-out trauma, and a small thing like a legal challenge could send him right off the rails. But doesn't our council tax cover a whole term's teaching? Someone, somewhere, will bring a test case to the High Court soon, I hope.

The national banishment of the 16-year-olds is also politically suspect. Didn't Tony Blair say that his three biggest priorities were "education, education, education"? Clearly, he had in mind a different three "e"s: exams, exams, exams.

Education finishes for the year when the last exam paper has been handed in. What a retrograde signal to give, not only to 16-year-olds but to school students of every age who watch their 16 -year-old colleagues vanish at the end of every June.

I'm not recommending the sadistic procedure that existed when I was at school, which was to return to regular, timetabled lessons as soon as exams were over – as if the whole appalling, stressed-out, hay-fever ridden turmoil had been a figment of the imagination.

A change of pace is desirable, a change from the core curriculum a well deserved diversion. But surely teachers can come up with something a little more imaginative than saying: "That's it, see you in the sixth form, or good luck with your career. Now scram!"

Perhaps some students (mainly those leaving school at the end of term to go into full time employment) might be loath to return once exams were over. But those staying on in full-time education still feel a sense of belonging to their schools. Would it even have occurred to them that their term was over at the end of June if their teachers had not simply written them off?

There is another way; an imaginative use of time and resources that can demonstrate there is more to education than examinations.

The post-GCSE month could include a national education-for-life course. Take your pick from learning to cook; learning the rudiments of driving and motor car maintenance; learning how to open a bank account.

What better time or age for the much advocated but rarely delivered education for parenting? This could range from basic skills lessons – from changing a nappy to running a household budget – to more academic discussions on child rearing and gender roles.

Parents who were not at work could bring in their own babies, join in these lessons, and contribute their own advice. Instead of a country of bored teenage boys and girls, we could have a post-GCSE nation of new men and women.

Citizenship is also much advocated by Tony Blair and his ministers. A month-long citizenship course involving visiting speakers and going to see decision-making bodies in action – such as local councils, health authorities and the Houses of Parliament – could easily be drawn up at a national level.

Alternatively, students could work in hospitals and help the sick and elderly. These courses could serve as models for a national scheme, with certificates of citizenship awarded at the end.

Indeed, it is not just 16-year-olds whose schooling ends as soon as exams end. A-level students also make an exit at the end of external examinations.

But a three-week education-for-university course would be a logical option for them. It could include the basic literacy and numeracy that universities are always saying their students lack; it could offer general science for humanities students; it could provide a basic sex-and-drugs, pre-college navigation course.

Teachers complain regularly and with some justice about the restrictions and narrowness of the national curriculum. Every summer they have the chance for the best part of a month to show their charges what real education for life is all about. Every summer they blow it.

How the MoD came to rewrite our foreign policy

MICHAEL CLARKE

The Strategic Defence Review has set up some key strategic questions that it hasn't answered

THE GOVERNMENT'S Strategic Defence Review, out today, is more important for what it doesn't announce than what it does. No surprises were intended, for New Labour is anxious to reinforce its credentials as a steady government in whose hands defence will be safe.

That means no major cuts in the front line or in any of the roles British forces will play in the world. And although New Labour is determined to divert more cash to health and education, major shifts in resources will not come from the Ministry of Defence – not this time anyway.

In a victory that has heartened the MoD, George Robertson has fought a hard and successful campaign against the Treasury, which scoffed at the £500m he originally seems to have offered them as the MoD's contribution to the Treasury's Comprehensive Spending Review. The leaks have been minimal, the Armed Services seem reasonably content – for them it might have been worse – and the Ministry can sit back exhausted but satisfied after its biggest review since 1957.

Certainly, the SDR has served a range of useful purposes. And it was unavoidable anyway, since Labour's defence policy in opposition was to call for a review. Once in government, it originally intended to get it out of the way within six months.

But reviews take on a life of their own, and the 50-odd internal working groups got their teeth into a series of management reforms. These are to identify useful rationalisations in the support areas, help centralise decision-making, strengthen civilian control over the military, and treat the MoD like a major company that can make savings from economies of scale, de-stocking and out-sourcing. All of which helps get the Treasury off the MoD's back.

The SDR has also taken important steps to complete the reorientation of the armed forces for the world after the Cold War, by making them more capable of small-scale operations in places other than the centre of Europe. (The two 40-50,000 tonne aircraft carriers to be announced today will help fit the bill – if they are not cancelled before they get round to building them.)

The armed forces are already operating in the service of the UN or a coalition of Western allies around the world, but the SDR will help them do it without having to resort to the miracles of improvisation that have produced far too many "close run things" in recent years.

The SDR has also provided the gloves with which the MoD can grasp some of the nettles that would otherwise have been even more painful – big cutbacks in the Territorial Army and a change in its role; at least half an answer to "what the hell can we use the Parachute Regiment for?"; measures to move the Army away from too much dependence on heavy armour; reforming the equipment procurement process; and at long last, a frank recognition that our armed forces count for little if we can't get them to the operation quickly, and in strength.

Grasping this last nettle implies an important shift of resources from some of the more glamorous weapons and regiments to the transport which carries them.

The review has been vigorously "foreign policy driven" by George Robertson – if only to make sure that it would not be "Treasury driven" – and as a result the SDR has launched initiatives in "defence diplomacy". This means using the forces much less to defend the homeland and more to serve our broader foreign policy interests, by helping to manage international crises, avoid conflicts, help new democracies manage their old military establishments, and so on.

Not least, the MoD has talked to the ranks as well as the Chiefs of Staff: over 7,000 service personnel were consulted by the Liaison Team and as a result the MoD now knows – if it didn't before – that there is a long-term morale problem in the forces. Around 40 per cent of the armed forces – expensively trained – leave their service within the first five years. The MoD may hope and believe that the SDR puts defence on a stable plateau for the future, but the ranks don't believe it; for them this is yet another review and there will be more pain to come.

Are they right? Probably yes, but not for the reasons they believe. For all its virtues, the SDR is an internal management review within the MoD. It has not been as "strategic" as the MoD would have us believe, and has made some important assumptions that may not stand up over the next few years.

It talks about the necessity of preparing for multi-national operations, but has spent very little time co-ordinating the review with our allies. It makes an implicit assumption that our forces must be able to "fit" with those of the United States, and that we have to maintain major force elements – the "heavy metal" – so that the US takes us seriously. But how much thinking has been done about changes in the US-British relationship, about the future of the Europeans without the Americans sometimes, or whether it is still in Britain's long-term interests to be the junior military partner of the US?

Above all, with its expansive rhetoric about Britain's role in the world, why hasn't this sort of review been conducted across the whole of Whitehall? If we are really conducting a foreign-policy led review, why aren't we reviewing Britain's external security relations as a whole?

In addition to the Foreign Office, this would involve Claire Short's Overseas Development department on the role of aid in security; the DTI and Customs and Excise on defence sales, narcotics and small arms; the intelligence services and the Home Office on terrorism and international crime; and the Environment Department on dangers of environmental collapse around Europe or the Mediterranean.

It is not enough to say that the Foreign Office or the MoD "takes a lead" within Whitehall on these sorts of issues. That usually means co-ordinating policy, not necessarily thinking it through coherently.

No sane analyst would wish yet another review on the MoD. But the pressure from the Treasury will not go away and reviews cannot only be "Treasury chased". Eventually Gordon Brown's men will catch up.

More to the point, this review has set up some key strategic questions that it hasn't answered, but which events in the next few years will answer for it. We do need another review, but not of the MoD alone, rather of the way our government and our civil service approach the world around them.

Professor Michael Clarke is director of the Centre for Defence Studies at King's College London

British soldiers on manoeuvres in Egypt last year

Rhetoric won't stop the world's wild men

PODIUM

LORD JUDD

A speech to the United Nations Association on behalf of the Commission on Global Governance

"WERE AN anthropological expedition to visit earth from another galaxy, it would be impossible to give a rational explanation of human behaviour on return to base.

The world only spends on peacekeeping a small fraction of what it spends on arms. Indeed it has been estimated that what is provided for all today's peacekeeping activities only amounts to something like the combined budgets for the police and fire departments of New York.

But if that is not mad enough, consider that the world spends on conflict resolution and pre-emptive diplomacy only a small proportion of what it spends on peacekeeping. We agonise over the additional resources needed by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees but spend comparatively less than small change on preventing the crises that lead to the pressures on the commission.

At the same time migration, whether caused by harsh economic factors, conflict or environmental crisis, is insistently spreading and will not go away. There are some 23 million refugees in the world and an even larger number of people displaced within the borders of their home countries and therefore without the status or protection of refugees. Some well informed experts anticipate 100 million displaced people and refugees by the end of the year 2000.

What is the way forward? With the revolution in the Soviet Union against 75 years of communism and 300 years of imperialism, the old cold war dangers, but also the old points of reference, have gone. Can we turn this into an unrivalled opportunity to move from a bipolar, disastrously ideological world to a multipolar, creative world in which diversity is celebrated and values and pragmatism apply: a new age of common sense and reason?

We cannot bury our heads in the sand. We are faced with a grim resurgence of ethnic conflict across the world, and there are many hundreds, perhaps thousands, of groups which could claim the right to self-determination on grounds of ethnic identity.

Virtually none of the most significant conflicts raging in the world today is international. Almost all are within national boundaries. What is our strategic analysis on the implications of this for a world based on the sovereignty of the nation state? The biggest single challenge to the evolution of global governance is how we find international means to ensure accountable government, human rights and cultural self-respect before the ethnic entrepreneurs and the wild men take over.

The huge organisation and expenditure mobilised to deal with Iraq stands in stark contrast to the small scale or total absence of action over Rwanda, Burundi, Sudan, the Marsh Arabs, Chechnya, Nagorno Karabakh or East Timor.

If we accept the inescapability of international interdependence it is essential to examine the international dimensions of governance. This quickly brings us to the hypocrisy, contradictions and confusions which currently confront us.

There is a multiplicity of international institutions with different levels of engagement and commitment into which players dip at their convenience. Divide and fail applies, I suggest, in effect, even if not in intent. With the end of the cold war there was a good deal of rhetoric about the regeneration of the UN; but where is the evidence?

Strengthened conflict-resolution capabilities and effective policing of the arms trade – backed by long overdue codes of practice and generous resources for hard-headed arms substitution and conversion programmes, and, above all, pre-emptive, proactive diplomacy, rather than reactive diplomacy – are all indispensable elements for a credible UN.

Examining the challenges to be overcome, the Commission on Global Governance (of which I was a member), chaired by Sonny Ramphal, the former Secretary General of the Commonwealth, firmly concluded that the UN was indispensable but also that it was in need of radical reform.

The commission held that it should become task-orientated, rather than institutionally orientated. While, therefore, we felt that the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development could be better handled by other parts of the UN system, perhaps our most far-reaching proposal was for the creation of an Economic Security Council, of at least the same status as the existing Security Council, and within which the issues affecting the survival of humanity would be addressed."

So much more than just a game

MARCUS TANNER

Sport has become the means by which Croatia presents itself to the world

Children playing football on the streets of Dubrovnik's old town

Jack Picone/Network

"WE WERE like soldiers on the pitch, making our country recognised," said Croatian defender Slaven Bilic. That was last Saturday, when Croatia's stunning 3-0 victory over Germany catapulted this small nation towards the front-runners of the World Cup. Victory was sweet enough against the Croat's German allies. But the celebration in Zagreb will be much more ecstatic tonight if the Croats humble their old enemy France, the nation which, with Russia, did most under President Mitterrand to block their pathway out of Yugoslavia towards independence. That will be the moment that Croatia's President Franjo Tudjman – who shared a box on Saturday with his old patron Helmut Kohl – truly savours.

Bilic's military tone came naturally enough from a team with members who fought in a real war – against the Serbs in 1991 and 1992. Almost all of them lost relatives or close friends in the fighting. And, of course, it is all about recognition; about a small nation making itself heard on the playing field after the diplomats and, to an extent the soldiers, had failed to bring home the honours from the battlefield and council chamber. Croatia has been formally recognised since 1992, but its authoritarian President remains a pariah and the country of only 4.7 million has suffered isolation because of him.

Croatia has been pushed to the bottom of the waiting list to join the European Union – below even Romania. Feeling itself a victim of Serb aggression, but somehow cast in the role of aggressor – against its own Serbs, or the Muslims in Bosnia – it remains a frustrated country. And hovering in the background is the still un-exorcised ghost of the NDH, the fascist, Jew-bashing, Serb-killing quisling state Mussolini set up in the Second World War.

Rising, or rather riding, over this sorry background of failed hopes and economic misery are the redemptive and clean-cut figures of the Croat sportsmen: of Davor Suker, Zvonimir Boban and – in tennis – Goran Ivanisevic. No wonder Croats call their football team the "Knights". To a nation more than usually afraid of not existing (which was the problem in the old Yugoslavia), or of its existence not being noticed at all (which is the problem today), the Knights are living proof that Croatia does exist – and conquers. Croats see their national team quite literally as *državotvorni* – statebuilding – a cumbersome phrase in English, but one loaded with implication in old Yugoslavia.

Not for Croats the Serbian cult of the Kosovo Battle of 1389: of defeat that is more glorious and somehow more cleansing than victory. For the Croats, who lost their independence shortly after the Battle of Hastings and didn't recover it until 1992, victories provide no comfort. They want to win, and now. They did defeat the Serbs militarily in 1995, but even then were stung by the accusation that this was thanks to American help and that their victory was accompanied by atrocities against the Serbs.

The old, pre-1992 Serbian saloon-bar joke still rings, that the Croats "will do everything to win their independence – except fight for it". There is a hunger in Croatia for a good, clean victory that no one can take away, and for the "Knights" in 1998 to finally erase the shame of the fall of the city of Vukovar to the Serbian army in the early years of the Serbo-Croat war.

Close links between sporting and national aspirations are not, of course, at all peculiar to Croats. But they have long-taken on a special tinge in the Balkans and in Eastern Europe among the subject nations of the Russian Tsars and the Austrian emperors. Like all the Habsburgs' Slav subjects (especially the Czechs), Croat youth flocked to join athletic associations in the 19th century. All these clubs naturally had very highly charged political and ethnic character – which is why, when Croatia became part of Yugoslavia after the First World War, the Belgrade government tried to shut them down.

The Yugoslav communists, who took over in the 1940s, took much the same view as the old, royal Serbian government. Determined to drain the national spirit and unhealthy dreams of statehood out of sport, Croats – and the Serbs for that matter – were forbidden national teams of their own.

The local city teams, meanwhile, were renamed and given socialist, Soviet-sounding names that were almost self-consciously dreary and unemotive. Belgrade got Red Star and Partisan – the latter, intriguingly enough, founded with the help of none other than Mr Tudjman, then living in Belgrade, and in his Communist, "Yugoslav" incarnation. Zagreb got Dinamo. But the attempt to squeeze the national spirit, and especially the Croat national spirit, out of sport only worked for a while, in the highly centralised police state of the Fifties. The rise of fan clubs in the Sixties – the "Bad Blue Boys" for Dinamo, and "Gravediggers" for Partisan – soon resulted in a highly nationalist tone seeping back into what were supposed to be totally non-national teams.

So much so that the infamous Dinamo-Red Star football match of 13 May 1990, which ended in a state of emergency and violence in the streets of Zagreb, was widely seen in Yugoslavia – and throughout the world – as both a premonition, and in a sense, the first round, of the Yugoslav civil war. And who should have made himself a hero that day among the Croats by kicking one of the (Serbian) police, baton-charging the Croatian fans: none other than Zvonimir Boban, the Croat captain.

Football has brought Croatia the recognition it failed to win elsewhere and a measure of that international fame which they, like all nervous and newly independent states, are particularly keen to enjoy. But football is not President Tudjman's entirely pliant creature, however close his relationship to some of the players and to the coach, Miroslav Blazevic. The team may advertise the nation he so totally controls by wearing the national red-and white colours on their shirts, and by talking – as midfielder Robert Jarni did last Saturday – of victory against Germany as "a victory dedicated to those who suffered in the war" (against the Serbs.)

But there is also a sense in which Croatia's football team is seen as the only real opposition party to their crushingly dominant president. Tudjman's order to rename Dinamo Croatia in the early 1990s – to give this most prestigious of the local teams a truly "national" tone – was one of the blunders of his career, proving wildly unpopular and the subject of much graffiti. All over the capital's walls, the slogan went up:

Daj slobode i democracije, bilo bi Dinamo a ne Croatia

(If we had freedom and democracy, we would have Dinamo and not Croatia).

Such a blatant attempt to hitch sport to the service of the state can backfire, and be deeply resented.

And there is the other danger, too: that Croatia's national ambitions – and frustrations – are so heavily intertwined with the fate of the "Knights" of the football pitch, that victory merely releases all those atavistic passions which – on the battlefields of Bosnia, for example – isolated Croatia from the world in the first place. So precious is the "national" quality of the football team in the eyes of the nation, that for the midfielder Robert Prosinecki, the unfortunate fact of having a Serb parent has brought death threats.

And along with the hundreds of thousands of harmless revellers diving into the fountains in Jelacic Square in Zagreb on Saturday were other, more disturbing reports, such as a Muslim woman killed in the divided and tense Bosnian city of Mostar by Croat fans firing guns in celebration of Croatia's victory, not vertically into the air, but horizontally at the eastern, Muslim bank of the Neretva river. Just as ominous were the mob attacks on Muslim refugees returning to the village of Stolac. The UN said the Bosnian Croats in Stolac "turned their victory celebration into a rampage", and have been sufficiently alarmed to draw up contingency plans to protect Muslim returnees were Croatia to win again tomorrow.

If sport becomes the means by which Croatia presents itself to the world, victory tomorrow could be as frightening as defeat.

RIGHT OF REPLY

ROBIN WOOLCOCK

The head of Volkswagen (UK) denies allegations that it fixes prices at the showroom

PANORAMA HAS suggested that Volkswagen UK tries to fix the degree of discount its dealers are able to offer customers. This is an accusation that we refute absolutely.

Our company has never threatened or penalised any of its dealers for offering discounts. And it does not dictate to its dealers the degree of discount they are able to offer to a buyer. It has never threatened or penalised any of its dealers for offering discounts.

During recent years, it has been the objective of this organisation to lower the prices of its products relative to the competition in the UK marketplace. We have been very successful in the achievement of this aim; and three consecutive record years of sales, together with a very high demand for Volkswagen products, confirm this achievement.

As well as cutting our costs we have also reduced list prices and improved levels of equipment. At the same time, to help achieve this, we have gradually reduced the margins with which the dealers are able to trade. The combined factors of increased demand and lower dealer margins have resulted in reduced levels of discounting.

We accept that the prices of Volkswagen products, along with those for other brands, are higher in the UK than in some other European countries. This is due to the high value of sterling. In past years, our organisation has supported falls in the value of sterling and not raised the prices of its products. We do this to give stability to the pricing of new and used Volkswagens for the benefit of our customers.

Again, I would like to emphasise that we do not dictate to our dealers the degree of discount they should offer. We publish a recommended list price, but the degree of discount is up to them.

Mad, bad and very dangerous

WEDNESDAY BOOK

TOUGH JEWS: FATHERS, SONS AND GANGSTER DREAMS
BY RICH COHEN, JONATHAN CAPE, £16.99

THE GANGSTER who married into my family was called Chesty. He looked just like Edward G Robinson playing barrel-chested, cigar-chomping Little Caesar. Chesty's flashy, peroxide-blonde gun moll, my great aunt Gussie's daughter, looked like a film noir character too, but she was married to Chesty and their sons had bar mitzvahs. The movie stereotypes were based on people like them, people they knew, but the J-word was never mentioned. The prototype of Robinson's edgy, vicious Caesar was actually Bugsy Goldstein, a director of Murder, Incorporated – a Jewish firm.

Some of America's most notorious contract killers, racketeers and gamblers were Jewish. This underworld subculture took root in the worst neighbourhoods of Brooklyn and lower Manhattan in the late 19th-century. The halcyon days before the Jewish families moved to the suburbs and the Italians took over were in the 1920s and 1930s. The suave gambler Arnold Rothstein, whom Rich Cohen calls the Moses of Crime, became America's pre-eminent bootlegger when the US government's ban on alcohol created a golden opportunity.

Rothstein's syndicate exported incredible quantities of whisky from Britain. They sailed it across the sea and, having paid off the coastguards on both sides of the Atlantic, landed it by small fast boat, cut it, and sent it across state lines. Even before Prohibition ended in 1933, Rothstein's entrepreneurial skill enabled him to accumulate enough capital to go where risks were lower and profits even higher. He led the way to the world of white-collar crime which WASPS had hitherto kept for themselves.

Respectability was gained, but with the disappearance of the hard men and their ice picks and machine guns, Cohen believes, something important was lost. This was the "old gangster wisdom" that everything is negotiable, including that part of your fate that seems predetermined – your prospects, your future. From the Jewish gangsters, Cohen's father, who grew up in the mean streets of Brooklyn and who is the most interesting character in this engrossing and entertaining book, inherited "his belief that authority ... can always be outfoxed ... that all these rules – Do this, Don't do that – are just the construct of other men and can be defeated."

Mind you, these Jewish gangsters were no Robin Hoods. Not one of them stole from the rich and gave to the poor; no nonsense like that. They were mad, bad and dangerous to know, and most certainly did not write poetry. But Rich Cohen sees poetry in the fact of their existence and finds in them the answer to a question that haunts many Jews who grew up after the Holocaust: why did the six million go like sheep to the slaughter, why didn't they resist? These guys would have, says Cohen. They had guts, they prove the virility of Jewish manhood.

Personally, I think he draws the wrong lesson. These guys would have sold everybody else out. And their contempt for the law was not evidence of American get-up-and-go. Rather, it was an attitude that Jews brought with them from a Europe where the law had so often been carefully designed to fleece or murder them.

To elude the American authorities, Meyer Lansky – the last of the "great" gangsters – tried to emigrate to Israel. There he was unprecedentedly refused what is supposed to be every Jew's right: the right of return. Golda Meir said no Mafia need apply, so Lansky had to face the music in the US courts. In fact, his lawyers turned out to be better than the government's: Lansky was cleared of all charges and eventually died of old age in Miami. One feels Cohen wishes that, like Arnold Rothstein, Lansky had been gunned down.

Violence, it has been said, is as American as apple pie. Cohen feels it important that we know that it was also once as Jewish as apple strudel: that there were terrifying Jews out there, hoodlums as bad as any Godfather. Although the recently reissued *The Rise and Fall of the Jewish Gangster in America* by Alfred Fried remains the definitive book on gangsterdom, Cohen achieves his main aim, which is to show how the mythology of the Jewish underworld gave courage to street-smart kids like his father, Billy the Kid was not Jewish. Rich Cohen probably wishes he was.

As for Chesty and Gussie, after a while they had plenty of Cadillacs and their bar mitzvah boys were finishing university. Chesty wanted to leave the Syndicate. In answer to his delicate inquiries, word came back that there was only one way out: feet first. Having no desire for early retirement to New York's equivalent of Boot Hill, Chesty kept working. In today's economy, I suppose, there are many who would kill for that sort of job security.

ADRIANNE BLUE

WEDNESDAY POEM

LUSTRA
BY CHRISTOPHER OKIGBO (NIGERIA)

So would I to the hills again
so would I
to where springs the fountain
there to draw from
and to hilltop clamber
body and soul
whitewashed in the moondew
there to see from

So would I from my eye the mist
so would I
through moonmist to hilltop
there for the cleansing

Here is a new-laid egg
here a white hen at midterm.

Our poems this week come from the new edition of 'The Penguin Book of Modern African Poetry', edited by Gerald Moore and Ulli Beier (Penguin, £9.99).

Kay Thompson

"IF ARTISTICALLY you are able to do one thing," Kay Thompson once said, "you are more than likely able to do them all . . . it's just a matter of constant adjustment of one's heads." The ever-elegant and stunningly chic Thompson proved her point by being an accomplished singer, dancer, actress, composer, arranger, author, satirist and businesswoman.

She wrote the much-loved Eloise books, about a precocious six-year-old residing in New York's Plaza Hotel, had a cabaret act that toured the top night-clubs of the world, did vocal arrangements for some of the best Hollywood musicals and had a co-starring role in one of the very best, *Funny Face*, with Fred Astaire and Audrey Hepburn. "She was a dynamo," said the film star Gloria DeHaven. "Wildly talented, wildly flamboyant, and wildly wild. When she entered a room, she entered. She wouldn't walk in, she'd float in, and her arms would rise. All eyes would turn. She had that kind of command."

Born in St Louis in 1912, to a jewel merchant, Thompson started playing the piano at the age of four and at 15 performed Liszt's *Hungarian Fantasy* with the St Louis Symphony Orchestra – legend has it that she started several bars after the orchestra and tripped over a potted palm on her exit. At 17, she moved to California. "I was a stage-struck kid," she said, "and I got out of St Louis fast." After a brief spell as a diving instructor, she entered radio as a vocal arranger and performer, working with Bing Crosby, the Mills Brothers and André Kostelanetz.

After a spell as singer-arranger with Fred Waring's group, she formed a vocal group of her own with distinctive harmonies and was given her own radio show, *Kay Thompson and Company*, co-starring the comedian Jim Backus. "It was an instantaneous flop," she later recalled, "and I then came to a serious decision. I had to be an actress and I had to be alone. So I went to Hollywood, where I was neither."

It was the mid-Forties, the time when the Freed Unit at MGM was responsible for the finest group of musicals in Hollywood history and Thompson was hired by Roger Edens to join the team as vocal coach and arranger, working with such stars as Lena Horne and Judy Garland, the latter becoming a lifelong friend and confidante – Thompson was to be godmother to Garland's daughter Liza Minnelli.

Gloria DeHaven recently said, "Kay wasn't so much in charge of teaching people how to sing note for note as she was to help with vocal stylings and arrangements." Van Johnson added, "She was an idea person. Whenever anyone had a problem they would say, 'Get me Kay Thompson.' When I had to sing for the camera, I thought I'd die of fright, so I sent for Kay. She came in wearing a lynx coat and just sat there and smiled, and I sang to her. That was it. I got over my fright."

Among the first numbers on which she worked was the extended version of Harry Warren and Johnny Mercer's "The Atchison, Topeka and the Santa Fe", the Oscar-winning highlight of *The Harvey Girls* (1946), starring Garland. "I think I fell in love with Judy the second I saw her sitting on that train in the movie eating the sandwich," said Thompson later. Other films on which she worked included *Till The Clouds Roll By* (1946), *Ziegfeld Follies* (1946), *The Kid from Brooklyn* (1946, on loan to the producer Sam Goldwyn) and *Good News* (1947).

When her contract ended, Thompson formed a night-club act using as back-up group the Williams Brothers. (One of the brothers, Andy, was later to have a successful career as a soloist.)

Thompson constructed her act as a miniature revue and it opened at Ciro's on 16 October 1947, to become a legend still talked about, an act described by the columnist Walter Winchell as the greatest in night-club history. *Time* magazine reported:

> Dressed in one of her 25 sleek slack-suits, comedienne Kay Thompson stepped into the spotlight, looking like a caricature of the neurotic, world-weary woman of the Twenties. Bouncing about behind her were four young, mobile-faced Williams brothers who served as a kind of combination corps de ballet and hot choir. Anything went: patter, pantomime or pratfalls, and "Pauvre Souzette", a song about a young woman with a Restoration bosom.

The act played in the top clubs all over the world for the next few years, including the Café de Paris in London. It was while on tour that Thompson conceived the idea of Eloise. "Once I was late to a show," said Thompson, "and the brothers bawled me out. 'All right,' I said, using a kid's voice, 'all right. I'm late. I'm Eloise and af'r all, I'm only six.' After that I'd be Eloise and we'd fool around." Later, when planning to write a book about hotel life in America (to be called *Beds I Have Slept In*), she instead created Eloise, the lovable six-year-old who lives at the Plaza ("And charge it, please") and loves to pour water down mail chutes ("Just zippety jingle and skibble away zap!"). The first book, *Eloise*, was published in 1955, with illustrations by Hilary Knight, and further books told of Eloise in Paris, in Moscow, at Christmas time and in the bath. Thompson also made a recording as the little girl.

Songs written by Thompson include the hit "Violins" ("I love a violin . . ."), and for her cabaret act she also designed the clothes she wore, co-choreographed her dances and penned her own arrangements.

In 1957 Thompson was perfectly cast as an energetic and forceful fashion-magazine editor striving for "bizazz" in *Funny Face*, produced and directed by her former MGM colleagues Roger Edens and Stanley Donen. In this exquisitely photographed gem, Fred Astaire was the photographer Dick Avery (the film's visual consultant was Richard Avedon), transforming Greenwich Village bookseller Audrey Hepburn into a model for Thompson's magazine spread, "Clothes for the woman who is not interested in clothes."

Thompson stylishly led the film's opening number "Think Pink", joined the two leads cavorting through Paris in "Bonjour Paris", partnered Hepburn in "On How to be Lovely" and Astaire in "Clap Yo' Hands", rousingly sung and strutted in an existentialist haunt and given a typically Thompson vocal arrangement. Sadly, Astaire and Thompson did not get along – she considered him "crotchety" while he, according to Donen, liked his co-stars to be ultra-feminine. "He knew she had amazing talent," said Donen, "but just didn't want to be near it."

Thompson made one more film, Otto Preminger's off-beat account of three misfits who decide to live together, *Tell Me That You Love Me, Junie Moon* (1970), starring Liza Minnelli. Afterwards, Thompson became reclusive, and was estranged for several years from Minnelli due to the latter's drug use. A few years ago she was at the Backstage piano bar in New York listening to the cabaret performer Steve Ross and was persuaded to join him in song, demonstrating that, though visibly aged, she still had plenty of "bizazz".

Tom Vallance

Kay Thompson, actress: born St Louis, Missouri 9 November 1912; married first Jack Jenney (marriage dissolved), second Bill Spier (marriage dissolved); died New York 2 July 1998.

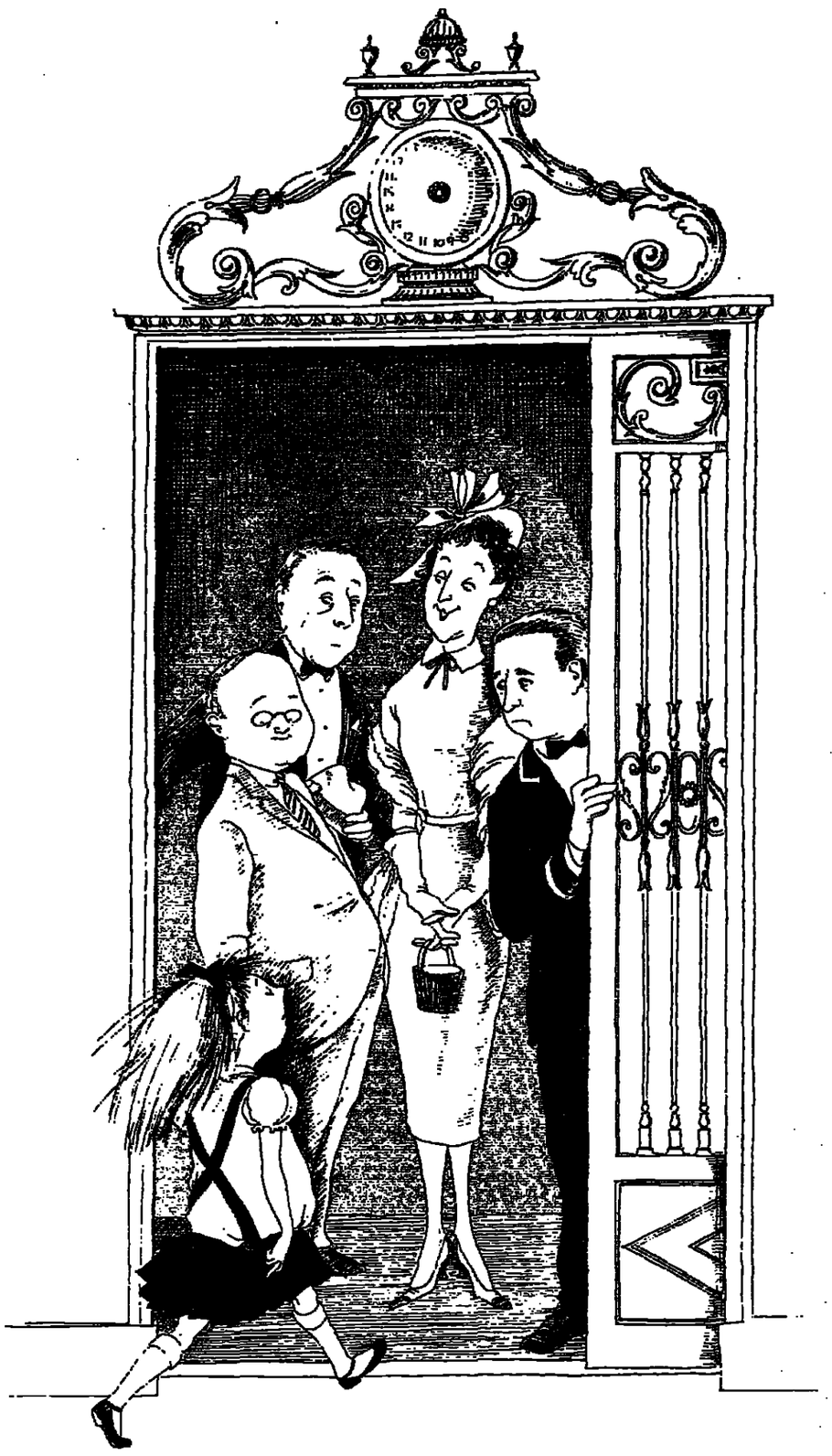


Illustration by Hilary Knight for Thompson's book *Eloise*

George Corbyn Barrow

GEORGE CORBYN Barrow was the grandson of Richard Cadbury Barrow, the last Mayor of Birmingham before it was granted a City Charter in 1888. He followed his grandfather's example by becoming Lord Mayor of the city in 1965.

The Barrow family had been well known in Birmingham since the establishment in the 1840s of the high-class grocery business Barrow Stores. A strong attachment to Birmingham and a sense of civic, and social, responsibility ran through the whole family.

Corbyn Barrow (he was known by either George or Corbyn by different people at different stages of his life) was born in 1903, a birthright Quaker. He was educated at York's Quaker school, Bootham, across the years of the First World War. He later went to King's College, Cambridge, and, qualifying as a solicitor in 1928, followed his uncle into the Birmingham law firm Wragge and Co. He remained with the firm all his working life, acting as its senior partner between 1967 and 1973, and then, after various stages of retirement, fading from any active practice aged about 75.

The firm still thrives, though now in rather grander accommodation and charging rather grander fees than Barrow imagined possible or decent. As a lawyer he was deeply committed to the law's impact on the ordinary person. Having been active in the Poor Man's Lawyer scheme, he was instrumental in establishing the Legal Aid system. His commitment was reflected in his own work and the heterogeneous nature of Wragge and Co's business while he was involved in its running.

He was secretary of the Birmingham Law Society in 1936 for several years and later, in 1952, became its president. Nationally, he served on the Council of the Law Society for over 30 years, until 1973. He continued as an honorary member of the Birmingham Law Society, and due to his specialist knowledge of conveyancing, continued on its non-contentious business committee until he was nearly 90.

Birmingham's politics was the other significant dimension to Barrow's life. After the Second World War, which he spent in the National Fire Service as a column officer, responsible for the training of hundreds of volunteer fire fighters, he was selected as Labour's parliamentary candidate for Edgbaston.

In 1945 Edgbaston did not fall to Labour, although the party polled more votes in the constituency than in any prior election. Barrow therefore switched his attentions from Westminster to Birmingham City Council, as councillor for Winson Green's All Saints Ward, amiably sitting opposite his own brother, Richard Barrow, who was then a Conservative councillor.

Barrow brought his own brand of deeply logical and ethical analysis to administrative problems. He was elevated to the council's Aldermanic Bench in 1952, for a total of eight years he was chairman of the city's health committee and he was later chair of the housing committee. One of his proudest achievements was a programme ensuring that piped water was installed in every Birmingham home.

In 1965 he was elected Lord Mayor of Birmingham. Among other civic activities, he helped establish the city's race relations committee in the mid-Sixties and, as chair, led it for more than 10 years.

As a socialist (and in his first marriage married to a Communist) in a much livelier and broader political climate than today's, he did not see his middle-class background as any sort of disqualification. He was president of the Fire Brigades Union and as possibly the first graduate to hold the position of vice-president of Birmingham's Trades Council, he felt privileged in proposing the motion to allow Communists to join.

This easy understanding of socialism and subscription to the aspirations of Labour may well have been due to his Quakerism. Although personally very un-pious, the Quaker creeds of fairness, personal integrity and seeing value ("that of God") in everyone certainly influenced him in a way that the other directives, to eschew drink and tobacco, did not. He was a familiar figure of the hotel bars and pubs used in council and legal circles, and throughout adult life was perpetually wreathed in pipe smoke.

In a recent example of his political aversion to anything he saw as iniquitous, he protested over the introduction of the poll tax by insisting on paying the amount that he had paid in rates the previous year, plus a generous percentage for inflation. This, living in Edgbaston, was substantially more than the poll tax demand and, after several exchanges of cheques and letters, he was successful in insisting that the council accept the money and put it to proper use – providing useful services for the Birmingham population.

Pacifism, another demanding Quaker principle, was never truly to test him. He was too young for the First World War and during the Second World War, despite call-up papers arriving from the Navy and preparations to join the training ship *Excalibur* (a rather unimpressive vessel that lay in some inland waterway), after direct intervention to the War Office by the Chief Fire Officer and Wragge and Co's senior partner, he received an exemption. This was accompanied by a demand for the return of the postal order for 3s 6d that had been advanced for his travel. He never expressed either relief or disappointment at not serving in the Navy, although his affection for the sea and sailing would probably have made the more benign aspects of service attractive to him.

In 1947 he sailed to, and circumnavigated, Iceland in a small yacht. In contradiction to much else in his life, he relished the snobbery in boating circles of belonging to the prestigious Royal Cruising Club.

George Barrow

George Corbyn Barrow, lawyer: born Birmingham 9 September 1903; married 1934 Molly Sparrow (marriage dissolved 1957), 1957 Sheila Davis (one son, two daughters); died Birmingham 2 July 1998.

Adel Osseiran

THE FRENCH mandate in Lebanon, Brigadier Stephen Longrigg wrote four decades ago, "disappeared with graceless reluctance". Long impaired and "increasingly unreal", it was destroyed by an act of folly at 4am on 11 November 1943, when French troops came to arrest ministers of the new Lebanese government, proving – to the Lebanese and to the British – that their promises of independence were worthless. Adel Osseiran, the last survivor of Beshara al-Khoury's cabinet, was trapped in his house at Aley in the mountains above Beirut when five French marines saw a friend leave his home.

"They were in uniform and Adel greeted them politely and asked what they wanted," his young wife – pregnant with their second daughter – was to recall. "They said they had orders to arrest him from M Jean Helleu (French Délégué-Général in Lebanon). Adel had come back late that night and our dinner lay uneaten on the table. He said to them: 'I have to change, to wash, why don't you eat with me?' He was playing for time but they took him away; they refused to tell me where. They searched the whole house. When they came to my room, I told them, 'You will pay dearly for this.' The Frenchman replied: 'So be it!' "

Adel Osseiran, a Shiite Muslim from the south of Lebanon, was taken to the gaunt old prison at Rachaya in the Bekaa valley where he met the rest of the Lebanese cabinet who had refused to allow M Helleu to maintain his control over Lebanon's administration. Riyadh el-Solh, the prime minister, was already there. So was the president, Beshara el-Khoury, who – according to the Osseiran family – berated the new minister of agriculture and communications. "See where your refusal to negotiate has got us?" el-Khoury asked. "See what happens when you always refuse to negotiate?" Osseiran smiled at him. In prison, he paid his French-controlled Shiite guard to buy food for himself and his fellow ministers. French cuisine was not to their taste.

Osseiran had never found the French to his taste. He opposed France's carving up of Syria – General Henri Gouraud had proclaimed the state of "Greater Lebanon" on lands taken from Syria in 1920 – and a "Conference of the Coast" in 1936, which he attended, expressed the view that Muslim areas of Lebanon should be retransferred back to Syria.

Osseiran was arrested – for the first time – the same year after protesting at the massacre of Syrians by French Senegalese troops. "So you are the man who wants to swallow 40 million Frenchmen?" the French investigator asked, referring to a speech Osseiran had made at Nabatiya. "Why not?" Osseiran replied. "Then you must be a gourmet," the Frenchman said. He stood unsuccessfully for parliament (under the mandate) a year later.

Ironically, though a nationalist from the start of his political life, Osseiran had been brought up in the French language – he began his schooling at the French "Frères" school in Sidon – and first attracted the notice of the French authorities when he protested, in 1928, at the harsh mandate taxes imposed on south Lebanese (Shiite) tobacco farmers. He was at last elected a member for southern Lebanon in 1943 and was successfully re-elected for the Zahrani constituency in 1953, 1960, 1968 and 1972.

As a Shiite, he interceded with Saudi Arabia to allow Iranians to make the Haj pilgrimage in 1947 while at the same time asking the Iranians to support the Arab cause in Palestine; that same year, he represented Lebanon at the UN to vote against the Palestine partition plan. Thirty-six years later, he would be demanding "armed resistance" against Israel's occupation of Lebanon at the Geneva conference.

The civil war – and the foreign armies which it drew inexorably into his tiny country – deeply depressed Osseiran, whose ministerial portfolios between 1968 and 1989 included justice, interior, defence, commerce and economy. Almost by way of protest, he stuck to his post during that terrible conflict, opposing all foreign interference just as he had argued against Camille Chamoun's call for US Marine landings in 1958 following Gamel Abdul Nasser's union of Syria and Egypt (Osseiran admired Nasser's personality).

He was almost killed when a Phalangist bullet grazed his head outside the parliament building during the civil war. Standing in his office at the ministry of commerce in 1976, he saw Beirut port burning from end to end and pleaded desperately over the telephone with the Syrian interior minister to send a fire engine from Damascus (shades of Northern Ireland's appeal to de Valera during the 1941 Belfast Blitz). The fire appliance duly arrived, only to be shot up by the same militiamen who were burning the port – because they were intent on looting it.

Osseiran was one of the very few politicians in Lebanon who sold property in order to survive – many others augmented their pathetic salaries through corruption – and even in the worst years of the war he would set off home to Sidon down the guerrilla-infested coast road from Beirut on his own. Believing in what he called the "Arab identity", he admired President Assad of Syria in much the same way as he appreciated Nasser's calls for Arab unity.

The chimera of unity, of course, did not come in Osseiran's lifetime and he died aged 93, having fought Parkinson's disease for 14 years, still demanding an end to the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon – just as he had, at the start of his career, demanded an end to French occupation of that very same piece of land.

Robert Fisk

Adel Abdullah Osseiran, politician: born Sidon, Syria 5 June 1905; married 1941 Souad al-Khalil (two sons, five daughters); died Sidon, Lebanon 18 June 1998.

Monteverdi in 1954, with a Ferrari Tipo 53 Mille Miglia – the first Ferrari imported into Switzerland

Peter Monteverdi

WITH AROUND 3,000 cars built over a 27-year period, Peter Monteverdi was never going to join the Henry Ford league of motor industry moguls. Nevertheless, this achievement still makes him the most prolific Swiss car manufacturer of all time. His products ranged from single-seater racing cars to upmarket off-road vehicles, one of the most beautiful cars of the 1960s, and *American sedans cynically disguised as* bespoke limousines.

He was born in Binningen, a suburb of Basle on the Franco-Swiss border, the only son of Rosolino Monteverdi, who ran a garage specialising in truck repairs. Surrounded by mechanical things as a child, he was obsessed with cars, inseparable from his Dinky toys and pedal car and, as a teenager, earned pocket money at a local tractor factory. After school he worked a four-year apprenticeship at the Saurer truck works in Arbon.

Rather than design some utilitarian farm implement, Monteverdi built his own car, aged just 17. He bought a clapped-out Fiat 1100 saloon for £200 and transferred its salvageable organs to a homemade chassis and body to create his own two-seater roadster. "I think I was the only Swiss person ever to do that at that age," he recalled later.

When his father died in 1956, he was left running a truck repair shop he had little interest in. Almost immediately, he diversified into sports car tuning and repairs and expanded fast. With no home-grown sports cars on offer, Monteverdi *built one, and his first "MBM"* – Monteverdi-Basle-Motors – was a cocktail of odds and ends, a British Heron plastic kit car body and a Ford Anglia 997cc engine tuned to give 85bhp. In fact, *only three were made. A more useful* sideline was go-karts, while he also found commercial luck with a simple Formula Junior single-seater racing car; 23 were sold between 1959 and 1962.

Spurred on by this success, Monteverdi went on to construct the first and only Swiss Formula One car. The MBM F1 boasted a factory-tuned Porsche RSK engine in a modified MBM FJ body/chassis, and was entered in a few Grands Prix in 1960 and 1961. Monteverdi himself drove to a second place at Mont Verdun in 1960, but the MBM wasn't particularly distinguished.

In fact, Monteverdi's short and hectic career as a driver was more distinguished in *sports cars – coming third in* the Nürburgring 1000km race in 1959 in a factory-backed Mercedes 300SLR – and rallying, capturing a second place in the 1959 Geneva Rally in a works Renault Dauphine. He claimed to have driven in 60 international and 20 national races and rallies, with several victories.

*In 1961, a nasty accident at Hocken*heim in his F1 car left Monteverdi seriously injured and took away his taste for competition. He quit the grid altogether, but this was no failed ex-racing *driver destined to eke out a prosaic liv*ing. His business had grown so large he bulldozed his father's old truck sheds and built palatial new premises, with showrooms at the front, multi-storey *workshops at the back and apartments* above to generate even more income. By 1970, Garage Monteverdi had doubled in size again. He was also the Swiss Ferrari importer.

Canny business sense in sports cars and truck-mending meant Peter Monteverdi could afford the first Ferrari sold in Switzerland, a Tipo 53 Mille Miglia, *in 1954. Keeping it going, however, re*quired frequent trips to Italy for spares.

"One time in 1954 I was in Modena and I met Enzo Ferrari," said Monteverdi. "He asked me what I did and I told him I had a small garage in Basle. As I was also a racing driver, he asked if I'd like to sell his cars for him in Switzerland. So I became the Ferrari concessionaire at just 21 and remained the Swiss importer for 12 years."

The arrangement added to Monteverdi's prestige but, in 1964, ended abruptly. "*Enzo insisted I buy 100 cars* at a time and pay for them in advance," he recalled. "I wasn't prepared to do that so he said he'd find another importer. I *decided to build my own car.*"

It took Monteverdi two years to design and build the first prototype of the Monteverdi 3755. "It was intended to be different from a Ferrari," he said, "to offer everything Ferrari didn't. A Ferrari is a young man's car, but no young man can afford it, only older people. And older people want things like automatic transmission. But Enzo Ferrari refused to give them that."

The Monteverdi 375S was one of the most handsome cars in the world at its *autumn 1967 début, powered by a huge* 7.2-litre Chrysler V8 engine pumping out 375bhp – hence the name – and designed by an Italian stylist called Pietro Frua.

It was Switzerland's answer to upper-*crust British GT cars like the Jensen* and Bristol, and spawned a series of coupés, convertibles and a four-door saloon, the 375L, produced until 1975. But *it was in another league price-wise; the* 375S was twice as expensive as a Jensen Interceptor and a staggering five times more than a Jaguar E-type. Still, there were around 50 takers a year until the *fuel crisis of 1974 made selling such* bespoke gas-swiggers impossible.

With startling inventiveness, Monteverdi then switched tack to luxurious four-wheel drive vehicles aimed at the Middle East where oil crises didn't really figure. But instead of designing and building from scratch, he adapted America's rugged International Harvester 4x4 vehicles, turning the workaday IH Scout into the upmarket Sahara, with plush interior and reworked nose, and the Safari, with completely restyled bodywork *and an even more deluxe interior.*

He made hundreds, all of which found their way to Middle Eastern owners. In 1977, sensing he was on to a good *thing, Monteverdi returned to conven*tional road cars by transforming the humble Plymouth Volare into the Monteverdi Sierra. A new nose and tail was grafted on to the Detroit midriff, the in*terior was totally refitted*, "exclusive" Monteverdi badges were applied – and it was hoped none would notice.

By the late 1970s, however, it was getting hard for – effectively – a one-man band to manufacture new cars, so Monteverdi poured his efforts into his new "Monteverdi Design" enterprise. Be*sides the predictably glitzy watches and* speedboats, he had the clever idea of squeezing two extra doors into Britain's ever-popular Range Rover without altering the wheelbase and, thus, a large redesign bill. Land Rover liked the idea, and subsequently paid Monteverdi a lucrative royalty on every standard four-door it made until 1994.

As he grew older, Monteverdi became *bitter at the scant recognition he received* in his home country. By 1984, he abandoned making cars altogether after building around 3,000 of them – just 200 of which remained in Switzerland. Instead, in the bowels of his old factory, he created a car museum that was, in effect, a shrine to himself; of the 150 cars he owned, 60 were Monteverdis, including that first Fiat Special. Visitors could even sit down in a miniature viewing theatre and watch a slide show of the Monteverdi story in four languages. Although it was *billed as "Switzerland's largest car mu*seum", there were few visitors, and this left him angry and disillusioned.

"Switzerland is a green place," he said caustically. "People frown on exclusive *cars. Germany's the same. People say, 'We* don't like cars - they should be banned.' That's why I stopped production."

People who owned them, though, loved them. It's believed a fleet of five Monteverdi 375L limousines are still in palace service with the King of Qatar, while the King of Morocco allegedly uses his Monteveri Safari regularly.

Giles Chapman

*Peter Rosolino Monteverdi, car design*er *and manufacturer, and museum proprietor, born Basle, Switzerland 17 June 1934; died Basle 4 July 1998.*

The Monteverdi 375S was one of the most handsome cars in the world . . . 'It was intended to be different from a Ferrari,' said Monteverdi, 'to offer everything Ferrari didn't'

HISTORICAL NOTES

GEOFFREY SHERINGTON

Child emigrants or Empire settlers

IN RECENT years child migration has had a poor press. Charges of deceived parents and systematically abused children appear to be the norm. However, one of the foremost child emigration societies *challenges much of this depiction.*

The Fairbridge Society, named after its founder, the South-African born Kingsley Fairbridge, was established in 1909 and continued its migration activities for three-*quarters of a century, though the goals of* the founder and supporters of the society were never fully realised.

It is perhaps strange that the racist impetus behind child emigration has not received more flak from the critics. Kingsley Fairbridge was a late-19th-century "Child of Empire" who absorbed and acted upon the racist assumptions of his own class and generation. He wished to further the cause of imperial greatness by rescuing white children from the cities of Britain and transplanting them to the far-*flung frontiers of the white Dominions.* Such bonds would bind the territories together and promote the supremacy and *cultures of their British founders.*

By the time that the migration activities of the Fairbridge Society ceased, that dream had run its course. Commonwealth had replaced Empire and multiculturalism *white supremacy. The society had helped* to establish farm schools in Western Australia, Vancouver Island, New South Wales and Victoria, while a Fairbridge Memorial College had been founded in *Rhodesia. Almost 6,000 children had been* sent out under various schemes, many receiving a training which probably would have been denied them in the home country. But all this was not enough to preserve Empire. Ironically, by the 1950s it was the Australians, still eager to maintain British migration, who provided the impetus to continue re-settlement.

What then of the charges of deception and the effect of migration on the children themselves? While the society reunited children from poor homes and voluntary *organisations such as Barnardo's it also* appealed directly to parents. Some critics had suggested that child migration societies often ignored the wishes of parents who had placed their children in *institutions but many actually enrolled* their children with the Fairbridge Society.

Fairbridge: imperial philanthropy

The society was essentially an imperial philanthropic organisation which constantly revealed itself as conscious for the welfare of the children. Kingsley Fairbridge had established not only rural training but also attempted to create a *sense of family life through cottage homes* and a system of aftercare to protect the children once they went into employment. After his death much of this ossified. A lot depended on the relationship between individual children and the cottage mothers which were a vital part of the Fairbridge system. But it would be wrong *to assume that life on the farms was a* form of sustained child abuse. The society in London continued to insist on the need for proper care and protection. Eventually, it instigated its own inquiry into the *administration of farm schools in Australia,* so leading to changes in methods which would, at least, bring new forms of education and employment opportunities for the generation of child emigrants sent out after the Second World War.

In the end, very few of the child emigrants remained on the land as Fairbridge had expected. Many undoubtedly came to believe that it would have been better if they had stayed in Britain closer to their own immediate kith and kin. But others took advantage of the new prospects that *migration opened up for them. The* Fairbridge legacy remains in the lives of many of these former child emigrants.

Geoffrey Sherington is co-author of 'Fairbridge: Empire and child migration' published by Woburn Press this month, £35

Judges' role in long-delayed cases

WEDNESDAY LAW REPORT

8 JULY 1998

Regina v Percival
Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) (Lord Justice Auld, Mr Justice Holland and Judge Allen) 19 June 1998

WHERE A defendant was brought to trial as a result of allegations made many years after the offences were alleged to have been committed, the judge's role should be to ensure that any convictions reflected a full appreciation of the problem of delay, and of its solution, the burden and standard of proof.

The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal of Brian Percival against his conviction of one count of buggery and five counts of indecent assault, all on boys under 16.

The appellant's trial took place in September 1997, although the offences were alleged to have occurred between 1996 and 1969. At that time he had been employed as a clerk/store*man at an approved school for* boys, which had subsequently closed. No contemporaneous complaints had been made against the appellant, but a relatively recent enquiry into sexual abuse of pupils at the school, which had led to the successful prosecution of a former master, had also resulted in the allegations against the appellant.

The appellant was committed for trial in November 1996, and applications were subsequently made on his behalf to stay the proceedings as an abuse of process on the ground of delay. The judge refused the applications, finding that the delay was not due to any fault on the prosecution's part, and that, although some prejudice was inevitable, it could be addressed at the trial by appropriate directions to the jury.

The appellant was convicted, and appealed on the grounds that the judge had erred in re*fusing to grant a stay; and that* he had failed to give a full and sufficient direction to the jury as to the prejudice caused to the defence by the delay.

Timothy Holroyde (Keith Porter) for the appellant: Alex Carlile QC (Crown Prosecution Service) for the Crown.

Mr Justice Holland said that it had been submitted for the appellant that, having regard to the delay, no fair trial was possible, and that the judge had been plainly wrong to refuse a stay. It could not be said, however, that the judge's exercise of his discretion had been unreasonable.

It had further been submitted that the prejudice to the appellant caused by the delay could only have been sufficiently mitigated so as to provide a fair trial by forceful and even repetitive directions, drawing the jury's attention to the task of the prosecution of fulfilling the burden and standard of proof; and that, in the event, the summing up had not been adequate in that respect.

Delay of up to 32 years must threaten the fairness of any *criminal trial, not least when the* Crown case depended on late complaint and oral testimony. *Before a conviction following* such a trial could appear to be safe, the court had to be satisfied that the judge had confronted the jury with the fact of delay, and its potential impact on the formulation and conduct of the defence and on the prosecution's *fulfilment of the burden of proof.*

In the present case, the judge had not drawn the jury's attention at any stage to the point that there was such po*tential prejudice to the defen*dant by reason of the delay that the only real remedy was conscientious concern for the burden and standard of proof. He had sought to deal with delay by even-handedly drawing attention to its potential impact *upon the prosecution evidence.*

The court readily accepted that there was a place in the summing up for a reminder that it was potentially unfair to the complainants to be censorious about failures to recall minutiae, but by introducing the topic as a factor balancing and thus mitigating potential prejudice to the appellant, the judge had wrongly equated the problems confronting both prosecution and defence.

Moreover, the judge had recited the respective submissions of counsel as to delay, but without a clear expression as to where he stood as the person seised of the task of securing a fair trial notwithstanding the delay, and had failed to take the opportunities afforded by his review of the evidence to put over the point about delay. In the circumstances, the court could not be satisfied that the convictions were safe.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

DRUMMIE: Maud Beatrice, beloved wife of the late Michael and dearest mother of Derek. Suddenly, but peacefully, at home, on Saturday 4 July 1998, aged 78 years.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS are charged at £6.50 a line; VAT is extra.

BIRTHDAYS

Lord Allen of Abbeydale, former senior civil servant, 86; Mr Jon Bannenberg, yacht designer, 69; Dr Robert Barnes, metallurgist, 74; Dr Kate Bertram, former President, Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge, 86; Sir Robin Biggam, chairman, Fairey Group, and of the Independent Television Commission, 60; Mr Christopher Brown, Headmaster, Norwich School, 54; Mr Alan Campbell MP, 41; Mr Ben Chapman MP, 53; The Hon Mrs Mary Corsar, former Chairman, WRVS, 71; Sir Peter Darby, former Chief Inspector, Fire Services, 74; *Lord Dervaird, Professor of* Company Law, Edinburgh University, 63; Mr Leslie East, publishing director, Novello & Co, 49; Mr Keith Fielding, rugby player, 49; Lord Gilmour of Craigmillar, former government minister, 72; Mr Bruce Gyngell, former managing director, TV-am, 69; Mr Bernard Henderson, chairman, British Waterways, 70; Mr Brian Hitchen, former Editor, *Sunday Express*, 62; Dame Elaine Kellett-Bowman, former MP, 74; Dr Peter Knight, Vice-Chancellor, University of Central England in Birmingham, 51; Maj-Gen Robert Loudoun, former Director, Mental Health Foundation, 76; Air Chief Marshal Sir Roger Palin, Controller, RAF Benevolent Fund, 60; Miss Pauline Quirke, actress, 39. The Right Rev Derek Rawcliffe, Assistant Bishop, Ripon, 77; Mr Chris Ruane MP, 40; Viscount Samuel, *Emeritus Professor of Physi*cal Chemistry, Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel, 76; Herr Walter Scheel, former president of West Germany, 79; Sir Roy Shaw, former Secretary-General, the Arts Council, 80; Mr Brian Walden, journalist and broadcaster, 66; Air *Chief Marshal Sir Neil* Wheeler, 81; The Very Rev Michael Whinney, Assistant Bishop, Birmingham, 68.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Percy Aldridge Grainger (George Percy), composer and pianist, 1882. Deaths: Percy Bysshe Shelley, poet, at sea 1822. Today is the Feast Day of St Adrian III, pope, Saints Aquila and Prisca or Priscilla, St Grimbald, St Kilian and his Companions, St Procopius of Caesarea, St Sunniva and her Companions and St Withburga.

LECTURES

Tate Gallery: Edwin Aitken, "Andy Warhol: prankster or pioneer?", 1pm.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron of the London Federation of Clubs for Young People, visits Woodrow High House, the Lawrence and Joseph Levy Centre for Young People, Amersham, Buckinghamshire; and, as President, attends a *reception to* mark the 80th anniversary of the English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth at Lancaster House, London SW1. The Queen Mother attends the Festival Service of the Friends of St Paul's in St Paul's Cathedral, London EC4. The Duke of York presents awards at the Inter-Service Team Shooting Match at Bisley, Surrey. The Princess Royal, Patron, Institute of Logistics, opens their new premises at Supply-Chain Centre, Corby, Northamptonshire; as Patron, College of Occupational Therapists, opens the new occupational therapy building at Nene Centre for Healthcare Education, Northampton; as Patron, Sense, visits the Rushton Hall School, Rushton, Northamptonshire; as President, the Save the Children Fund, visits their shop in Northampton; as Patron, National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, visits the East Northamptonshire Bureau at Rushden, Northamptonshire; and, as Patron, Sense, attends the Investment Week Fund Manager of the Year Awards at the Royal Albert Hall, London SW7. The Duke and The Duchess of Gloucester visit the Royal Agricultural Society of England Show, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am. Nijmegen Company Grenadier Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Grenadier Guards.

Post Gazette announcements to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, telephone 0171-293 2012 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2011) or fax to 0171-293 2010. Please give a daytime telephone number.

WORDS

WILLIAM HARTSTON

anti-clockwise, *adj.*

BROWSING THROUGH the *Oxford English Dictionary* **on CD-Rom the other day, I discovered a centenary that we seem to have overlooked. For 1898 was the year** *anti-clockwise* **first appeared in print.**

Clockwise **and** *counter-clockwise* **had been around since 1888, which poses the question of how English described the way clocks moved their hands in** *earlier times.*

Widdershins, **that splendidly sinister and ancient word for anti-clockwise, dates back to 1513, but the only** *comparable term I* **have found for clockwise is** *deasil*, **meaning in the direction of the sun and dating back only to 1771.**

Did you know, incidentally, that clocks move their hands anti-clockwise? Put yourself in the position of the clock and you will see it is true.

Don't forget about Ricky

The Lawrence family is not the only one desperate to know the truth about their son's death. Last year, Ricky Reel's body was pulled from a river. Was he, too, the victim of a racist attack? By Angela Neustatter

Sukhdev Reel's recurrent nightmares are dreadful evocations of the evening Ricky died. In them she hears the voices of two white youths taunting her 20-year-old son Lakhvinder (known as Ricky) and his two friends, with cries of "Pakis go home".

She is as familiar with the spot where it happened – outside Bentalls shopping complex in Kingston, Surrey – as she is with the kitchen in her Southall home. From the day Ricky disappeared until his body was found, she was there almost every day, pacing back and forth, searching buildings, streets and big industrial dustbins where she feared she might find his body. Even now, she sometimes goes until the early hours of the morning, handing out leaflets with Ricky's photo and a description of his death, hoping somebody may come forward with a memory, some information. She says simply: "I still believe we will find a clue to what happened here."

On the night of 14 October 1997, Ricky, 20, an Asian student at Brunel University, went out with two friends to celebrate a 21st birthday. They were heading for a nightclub in Kingston, but before they got there explains Mrs Reel, a slight woman in a sari, whose soft-voiced composure falters as she battles with tears: "Two white youths approached and started racially abusing Ricky and the others, so Ricky's friends have told me. One of the friends asked 'what's your problem?' and then the white youths punched and attacked him and one of the others and they all split – I've always taught my children to get out rather than getting into fights. But as they ran, they got separated. That was the last his friends saw of Ricky."

"When I heard about the racial taunts, I felt very frightened. We all know what racial hatred can mean and what violence it can bring"

A week later, Ricky's body was pulled out of the River Thames where, according to the pathologist's report, it had been for a week. A week when a story unfolded that she believes has parallels with the Stephen Lawrence case, where the police failed to accept that there could have been a racial element to the death.

When Ricky was not home by 8am the following morning, Mrs Reel and her husband Balwant were extremely worried. She explains: "He always told me if he was going to be late home, and he'd promised to be in by 1am. I tried his mobile phone and it was turned off."

The next day, a police officer arrived and Ricky's friends were contacted and told police about the racial abuse. Mrs Reel says: "I felt very frightened. We know what racial hatred means, and what violence it can mean. I told the officer I thought Ricky might be in danger, but he quoted guidelines saying that if a person is over 18 and missing, there is nothing they can do before 24 hours is up.

She gestures, angrily now. "He acted as though Ricky had simply not come home, as though the fact he had been racially abused by men who clearly felt hostile towards Asians couldn't have had anything to do with Ricky's disappearance. He said 'if your son doesn't come home, contact us tomorrow'."

But even when the days went on and Ricky was still missing, the police did not trace the white youths, although they told the Reels they were searching for their son. Mrs Reel's anger makes her voice suddenly powerful: "We had to get our own leaflets printed and we handed them out every day and every night in Kingston. We went with friends to the spot where the incident happened. We went into cafés and restaurants, we spoke to late night bus passengers, we formed a human chain and searched buildings. We didn't see any police searching and we only once saw police distributing leaflets."

The Reels later heard from a mixed-race man that, two days earlier, he too had been told "Paki go home" by three white youths, and assaulted in the same spot.

Any hopes the Reels had, that the police would investigate the cause of Ricky's death once his body had been found, were dashed by the inspector who visited Mrs Reel before the post-mortem, explaining Ricky's fly buttons had been found undone. She is scornful repeating what the policeman said. "His words were: 'In my opinion Ricky went to the river, tried to relieve himself, fell into the water and died instantly'. I told him Ricky had a phobia about water and would have been unlikely to choose that place to urinate.

"Besides, unless you are drunk, which Ricky wasn't, it's very unlikely that you would just fall into the water. As for the 'evidence' of the buttons, I later discovered that some people, when they are taken out of water after a long time, have opened trouser buttons. It's something to do with the pressure of the water.

"The point is, the police had their answer as to what happened and didn't consider that Ricky might have been dragged to the water or chased there and fallen in."

Yet, in a statement in February after a second pathologist's report, where features of the lungs indicated that he survived some time in the water and may have struggled, the Metropolitan Police said: "The possibility that Ricky was forced into the river or prevented from getting out of the water cannot be ruled out."

In desperation, the Reels contacted lawyer Louise Christian, who expresses disgust at what she sees as a failure in police methods, saying: "The police have a duty to investigate if there's the slightest suspicion it may not be accidental death. It's not adequate for the police to simply assume that Ricky was urinating."

Christian has also been told that there may be video footage from the street around the time Ricky disappeared which may provide further useful evidence.

The Metropolitan Police say they have conducted an enquiry into the way the case was handled and have written a report. Christian has been told that she and the Reels will not be allowed to see this. She now intends to make a submission on the defects in the system to the second part of the Stephen Lawrence Enquiry which will consider the lessons to be learned from the Lawrence case. The Lawrence family, whose dignified and determined battle to see justice done has done much to expose what appears a culpable disregard for what racism can mean, feel much sympathy for the Reels and support the family's campaign.

"You would think, after all that the Lawrences have shown up in police attitudes to race, they would investigate. But no"

Meanwhile, unless the police take further steps to trace the white men, Mr and Mrs Reel and their children, Ricky's three distraught siblings, are expected to accept that they will never know what happened to him.

She sighs, seeming suddenly so frail: "Of course I don't know if Ricky died at the hands of racists, but surely it's clear that's a possibility. You would think, after all that the Lawrences have shown up in police attitudes to race, they would investigate. But no.

"I am trying to accept that I shall never know what happened in my son's last minutes, and that is agonising. I once read that the failure of justice is worse than the crime and, although nothing could be worse than losing Ricky, knowing there hasn't been justice is going to make it much harder to live with."

Balwant and Sukhdev Reel believe police could have done more to investigate the possibility that their son Ricky died as the result of a racial attack

You ask the questions

Such as, Keith Allen, why exactly do you hate Chris Evans so much?

AUTHOR, COMEDIAN and bon viveur, Keith Allen, 44, was born in Wales. He has worked in comedy and serious drama – from Channel 4's *Comic Strip* series to the BBC's *Martin Chuzzlewit* and ITV's *The Life and Crimes of William Palmer*. He also appeared in *Shallow Grave* and *Trainspotting*. His football song "Vindaloo", is still in the top 10. He lives in London with his wife, Nira, and has two children from a previous marriage.

Retna

Where did you watch the England/Argentina match and who were you with?
Nick Savill, Middlesbrough.
In Groucho's with my friends and my wife.

How and where did you drown your sorrows afterwards?
Rob Bishop, Woolwich.
I stayed there with friends. I kept putting off going to bed knowing I would have to wake up to a massive depression.

Do you think Beckham deserved so much flak?
Anita Howcroft, Horsham, West Sussex.
Yes I do. But I think if he learns how to control his impetuosity he should be forgiven.

Are you gutted that nobody will buy 'Vindaloo' now?
Jon Steele, Bradford, West Yorks.
Not at all.

Who's your favourite comedian at the moment and who's your favourite ever?
Lesley Cooke, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands.
Don't have one. Les Dawson.

How did you feel about a full frontal dead nude scene in Shallow Grave?
Christina Jenkins, Hampstead, North London.
Very well thank you. And you?

Do you mind being typecast as the baddy in British films?
Don Miles, Newcastle.
When I am, yes.

Do you worry about getting old?
Jay Watson, Bath.
No.

Got any hangover cures?
Trevor Pearce, Windsor.
Neat Ricard.

Are you ever going to do any more Comic Strips?
Anna Ross, Beeston, Nottingham.
No.

Is it true that you don't like Chris Evans? If so, why?
Sam Dale, Needham Market, Suffolk.
It is true, yes. He's symptomatic of everything I find repulsive about the indulged buffoons of light entertainment.

What's the most you've ever drunk in one sitting?
Paul Woodward, Bedford.
I have no idea.

How did you meet Damien Hirst?
Sasha Brookes, Worthing, West Sussex.
At the bar in Groucho's.

Who would you most like to sit opposite in a restaurant this evening?
Tina Beale, Swansea.
My Nanny John who is dead.

What's your best chat up line?
Alice Udsworth, Wembley, Middlesex.
It used to be "You're next" (whispered).

What is your biggest insecurity?
Brendan McCartney, Coventry.
It's taken me all of five minutes to fail to come up with a reply. I don't think I have any.

How many times a day do you shave?
Claire Russell, Cotswolds.
I shave about twice a week.

Don't those young, pretty boys from Blur make you feel depressed about your looks?
Jo Barber, South Croydon.
I'll answer in two parts. a) Are you seriously asking me to accept that Dave (drummer) is either pretty or young? b) I don't ever feel depressed about my looks.

When was the last time you thought, "Never again"?
Jamie Fields, Brixton.
As I was leaving Glastonbury on Monday evening.

Would you consider using Viagra?
Lucy Turner, Glasgow.
No

Who do you most dread bumping into at the Groucho Club?
Pat Hughes, Stoke-on-Trent.
Louis Farrakhan.

Do you wish Wales had a football team?
Tony Carey, Liverpool.
Yes.

How do you feel about being the grandfather of laddism?
Chloe Wright, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire.
I don't believe that I am. I've a feeling that the post is already filled.

Next week: columnist and author, Julie Burchill. Please send any questions you would like to put to her to: You Ask The Questions, Features, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL; by fax on 0171-293 2182; or e-mail to:yourquestions@independent.co.uk by lunchtime on Friday 10 July.

Alan Armstrong and Yvonne McCready celebrate their engagement on the police lines at Drumcree *David Rose*

Alan asked Yvonne to marry him, kissed her, then shouted: 'No Surrender!'

There's a new generation of Orangemen. And they don't all wear bowler hats. By **Kim Sengupta**

Petrol bombs were flying at a dozen skirmishes on Monday night. Shots had been fired at the police, and a thousand loyalists were laying siege to Mo Mowlam's residence at Hillsborough. In Belfast and London, politicians appeared to be impotent to solve the impasse at Drumcree which was threatening Ulster's fragile new peace.

There, at nine o'clock outside the parish church, in front of the barrier of metal, concrete and barbed wire put up to prevent the Orange Order marching down the Catholic Garvaghy Road, Alan Armstrong proposed to his fiancee Yvonne McCready. He kissed her, and the crowd cheered. Mr Armstrong then celebrated his forthcoming marriage by raising his clenched fist and shouting "No surrender!" This time the cheers were deafening. On the adjacent field a lambeg drum, a symbol of proud Protestantism, beat out an insistent role of defiance. Police helicopters circled overhead.

Mr Armstrong is 25. His future bride is 18. He was wearing a T-shirt, jeans and rings through his ears and eyebrows. Among him and his friends there was not a bowler hat or rolled up umbrella in sight. There were however, plenty of the orange sashes that their fathers wore, and they proudly wear now.

The Loyal Orange Institution has repackaged itself in recent years. Its senior members insist it has evolved with the time. Its critics claim this is just a facade, the organisation remains committed to the maintenance of Protestant supremacy, and holds on to basically the same tenets it did when it was founded in 1795.

To many of their fellow citizens of the United Kingdom, the Orangemen remain a curious, anachronistic and mildly amusing white tribe. Yet it is this Orange Order, with its insistence on one of its seemingly quaint traditions, the walk down the Garvaghy after a church service, that has caused the biggest political crisis in Northern Ireland since the referendum. All this may well prove rather confusing to the average man in Islington.

On the Orange Order's Internet web site "What is an Orangeman?" is answered by "A Protestant...upholding the Protestant principle of freedom of conscience for all...a good neighbour...a gentleman respecting the sanctity of women and defending their rights." It denies its parades are anti-Catholic, "it is well to emphasise that all other faiths, including the Roman Catholic, enjoy equally the same freedoms that Orangemen celebrate each July"

But the rules for membership are quite clear. To qualify, a candidate must satisfy the Master that he was born to Protestant parents, assure the Order that he "is not, and never was, a Roman Catholic or Papist." Law number four states "any member dishonouring the institution by marrying a Roman Catholic shall be expelled."

David Trimble, Northern Ireland's recently elected First Minister is an Orangeman He has been denying, in strangely ambiguous terms, that he has threatened to resign if the Orange Order is not allowed to walk down Garvaghy Road.

On Monday night Jeffery Donaldson, his former friend, erstwhile deputy and ally who is said to covet his position arrived at the church. He too is an Orangeman and feels they suffer from an unfair image problem. "People in England tend to stereotype the Orange Order", he said.

"It has evolved, it is a responsible organisation which wants to get on with its lawful business. We all hope this problem will be resolved."

But when and how? "I can't tell you I'm afraid. I am a politician, not a prophet." With that he went off for a television interview.

"He is a politician, much more than an Orangeman", chuckled a tall elderly man. "We must beware of politicians who try to use us. I don't blame Jeffery, he just suffers from overwhelming ambition. He went for the No campaign in the referendum because he thought he would end up as the leader of a united No party."

Colin Smith, a retired engineer, went on, "Me, I voted yes in the referendum. Protestants and Catholics will have to get on with each other if we are to make any progress. And the Catholics on the Garvaghy Road will have to let us use that road for 20 minutes on one Sunday a year. This is not about politics, it is about civil rights. How would you feel if you were not allowed to walk down a street in London?"

One man declares: 'Red, white and blue are the colours of the Bible'

Herbie Anderson, a 56-year-old farmer says he will have no compunction about breaking the ban on the walk. "They can't keep these barriers up for ever. We shall have our chance sooner or later. It will take us just an hour to get several thousand people together and then we shall complete our march."

There is a sense of bewilderment and betrayal at what many see as their loyalty to the British crown being flung back with contempt on their faces. Robert Ellis said: "I suppose one feels angry that we are not wanted. A lot of young people volunteered, fought and died for Queen and country. We just feel we deserve a little better than this."

As the evenings fall, the fields of Drumcree are full of tents and cars. Beyond the barbed wire and the ditch are the silent lines of police, troops and armoured cars.

The air is full of the smell of frying sausages but the atmosphere is more one would imagine a medieval fair to have been like, with drums and trumpets of various bands who have come to show their support.

In the evenings there is also a subdued but distinct sense of unease and, to some, menace. The Irish television channel RTE would not send their crews into the Orange lines after dark, and journalists from Dublin also tend to leave as the day ends. In the darkness, young men wearing T-shirts of the illegal Loyalist Volunteer Force, responsible according to the police for a series of sectarian murders of Catholics, move among the crowds. It is also the time when you hear the most anti-Catholic sentiments.

About 25 years ago there began a transfer of population along the Garvaghy Road, with Protestants moving out and Catholics moving in. "that's when the trouble started" said Alex who'd rather not have his surname published.

"The Catholics just let the area run down and down. They also imported crime in a big way. Most of them are into social security fiddles, what they can't get from fraud, they steal." His wife Joan, a smiling motherly woman, said: "These people, I hate to say, but they breed like rabbits. That's the plan, we shall soon be the minority. Then they can hold another referendum and get their United Ireland."

Roy Cookson added: "This country has been built by the industry of the Scots-Irish. All this will be ruined, these people are into handouts, they don't know what its like to build something out of nothing through hard work."

Another man declares "Red, white and blue are the colours of the Bible. That is why all the Northern European countries have these colours on their flags. To get other colours you have to go to the flags of the heathen countries." The man's name disconcertingly, is Brown.

What of the future? Alan, who became engaged to Yvonne at the barrier, is clear in his views: "It is our right to walk wherever we want to. They have no right to stop us. There will be no compromise. "Linking her arm through his, Yvonne says: "We have been pushed around for long enough it's only natural we should make a stand."

A stall next to the Drumcree church sells loyalist memorabilia and souvenirs.

There are William of Orange teatowels and cassettes with songs about Michael Stone, the Milltown cemetery killer. But the most popular item, which has rapidly sold out is a baby's bib saying "Born to walk the Garvaghy Road."

THE IRRITATIONS OF MODERN LIFE

4. SUMMER SALES
BY KAREN KRIZANOVICH, AGONY AUNT

THE SUMMER sales fill me with loathing. Not that I have anything against saving money. I love a real bargain as much as the next jerk, er, shopper. In my mind, the sales drop us screaming into the devil's underpants and leave us struggling to find a way out. You don't save money; you are shopping in hell.

We are lulled into thinking that the shops are doing us a favour by marking everything down. The ads in the papers cry "Fifty per cent off! Bargains galore! Free money!". How can we forget all the times these shops have taunted us with items Elton John couldn't afford?

I saw a jacket the other day that cost more than my car. Granted, it was larger and prettier than my car, but really. OK, I will admit that I would have sold my children (if I had any) for that jacket. This is the kind of sickness the summer sales tap into.

"Doing the sales" is the modern day equivalent of "going to the Crusades". You don't know if you'll ever come back but it is your God-given right to get exactly what you want for less. You will shop until victory. Or death: the store refuses your credit card in front of God and everybody.

Expert shoppers, like the knights, sport armour, with no regard for aesthetics. Women wear leggings and skinny rib tops so that they can change, shamelessly and painlessly, in public. No changing room queues for them. Meanwhile, the rest of us keep our wallets in our brassieres to prevent friendly pickpockets from taking our credit cards and eat endless chocolate to keep up that feeling of heady excitement throughout the day.

So we dress up like cat burglars, but for what exactly? I once spent a whole day trawling around a department store (which shall remain nameless as I still harbour hurt feelings), marking the location of everything I wanted. The next day, I waited dutifully for the shop to open. Sprinting through the rooms, I couldn't find anything I'd seen the day before. They had hidden all the good stuff. I bought £150 of stuff I didn't need and left in a huff.

One hears stories of great bargains. "I found this," says she, pointing to a perfect cashmere cardigan, "in the sales, marked down to £10." "This shirt," says another, "was a two-for-one. Buy one shirt for £5 and get another free." "See this silk blouse?" says the third. "They PAID ME to take this silk blouse."

This is all propaganda, urban myth, outright lies. In the sales, your size no longer exists. What's left are the teeny tiny things or the Clydesdale sizes. Little known fact: circus folk always wait for the sales. If you do see something you like, usually someone else already has it. No one has yet worked out the proper etiquette for asking another shopper for something she's trying on in one of the hot communal changing rooms. "May I try that on after you?" comes out as, "Gimme that, you skinny bitch!". It's the heat that makes us tell the truth.

Few people know that Prozac was invented specifically for the summer sales. No wonder, when getting to the racks is like mountaineering over human flesh. Once there, those with the longest arms and the sharpest elbows get the best gear. This is not the time for finer feelings: the woman who grabbed that top I wanted did time. I could tell by her tattoo.

Found something you want, have you? Time to confront the special sales clerks. These are SAS-trained mercenaries who follow the summer sales all over the globe and they aren't about to take any guff from you.

"I would like a further discount," I overheard a lady say politely, "this garment has an ink stain." "It's an AS IS sale," spat the burly cashier, the small cigarillo dangling from her thin, cracked lips. I was too frightened to ask where the loos were after that.

The summer sales deserve our hatred because they pretend to be something they're not. If you shop enough, you'll see that stores have sales all the time. Christmas, Easter, St Swithins Day or one of those awful Better Than Closing Down sales, you've got to remember those stores are gagging for your hard-earned pound.

My advice? Treat the summer sales as if they were a group of men in a sportscar. You mustn't look: that's what they want.

Who will pay the price for female success? Husbands, children or their less well-educated contemporaries? By **Yvonne Roberts**

You're on the way up. Just don't have children

DO YOU find yourself increasingly mad about women? Are you growing more and more alarmed by what appears to be the unstoppable transformation of females from the weaker to the vastly overcompensated sex? Then – at first glance – two reports in the past week will not have eased your temper.

The first, published by the London Research Centre, announced that women now make up half London's workforce. Many are concentrated in the service sector, in careers such as lawyers and accountants. So, while male employment has dropped by 5 per cent, the female workforce has grown by 2 per cent. "Women are white-collar winners in top job stakes", read the headline in the *Evening Standard*.

The second report, sponsored by Tesco for the pressure group Women in Journalism (WIJ), announced yet another first. If you are young, gifted, female and in newspapers, you are likely to be earning significantly more than your male colleague. Women under the age of 35 earn an average annual salary of £32,000 compared with £25,000 for their male colleagues. In historical milestones, this is akin to Eve giving the forbidden fruit back to Adam and telling him to eat his own apple.

There is, of course, a less florid interpretation. That is that some women, a minority of women, have learned to operate the system as one of the boys. And good for them – while it lasts. But where does that leave almost half of working women who don't work full time and who lack sufficient qualifications? And what happens to the female high flyers once they stop becoming one of the lads and step into what too many employers regard as the Oh no! Zone – motherhood?

In 1996, Shirley Dex and Heather Joshi conducted a study into employment after childbearing. What they discovered is that so long as qualified women zipped rapidly back to work, they are "less likely to suffer occupation downgrading and more likely to retain their employment benefits". Note the tentative use of the word "likely". In contrast, unqualified women face casualised contracts, few fringe benefits and less security. Once they have children, most switch to part-time work.

One in three professional mothers works full-time compared with one in 50 among the unskilled. Female part-time workers earn around 60 per cent of the average full-time male worker's wage. In addition, they face greater poverty in old age through lack of pension cover or contributions. So, we have the bottom 40 per cent of women who not only have to contend with the gender gap,

Diane Keaton in the film 'Baby Boom'. *Will children pay the price of their mothers' success?*

they also face the great educational divide which, over the years, is gradually splitting the sisterhood into first and second class steerage. Hardly progress.

Of course, female high flyers enjoy fat salaries and lots of kudos. Fifty women now earn more than a million a year, compared to 14 four years ago. That kind of success is sure to escalate. But at a price. The price is that some women are opting out of motherhood because they fear the impact on their career (according to a study in childlessness published today by the Rowntree Trust). Others have children but continue, as many men always have done, to marginalise their families.

The solution for many is a female one. Women give up paid work, or they join the part-time ghetto, or they trim their ambition. So, does Disgruntled of Tunbridge Wells really have cause to be mad about women – or should he be mad, even spitting furious, at the system which rewards both men and women only if they abdicate responsibility for the less material aspects of parenthood?

It's a system which the feminism I signed up for vowed to change for the betterment of all – not to learn to run with more ruthless aplomb than the lads.

Three cast members are missing from this saga. The first is children – whose needs have yet to win centre stage either in New Labour's Back to Work drive. The other two are employers and the government.

New Labour is espousing the virtues of good childcare as a means of producing happy, rounded offspring. That also means acknowledging that family and work life have to achieve a balance. A ministerial group on the family, headed by Home Secretary Jack Straw, is considering such dilemnas. In a couple of weeks, the National Family and Parent Institute also opens its doors. But what will be the employers' role?

Employers could change the culture of the workplace overnight. Why not, for instance, a child care levy on all big business? In Britain, less than 2 per cent of employers offer childcare, while parents meet over 95 per cent of costs. Elsewhere in Europe, according to the Daycare Trust, the split is more likely to be divided into thirds – employee, government and employer.

It's not just about resources, it's also about the structure of work; flexi-time, term-time working, job share, retraining. And the attitudes that prevail. Going home at a reasonable time is not as scary, once the boss makes it a normal practice.

Even if it did become easier for a woman to continue her career as well as fulfil her role as a mother; even if the unqualified part-time worker was better valued – one more earthquake would have to occur. Traditionally women stayed at home with the children because men earned more. This is less the case. A decade ago, one in fifteen women earned more than their male partner. Now it is one in five. Acquiring a healthier blend between work and home and children has to become a male as well as a female responsibility.

The more men who remain at home or who learn to tailor their career, the value of what is now still termed "mothering" will soar – and the better for all.

Mad about women? Or mad enough to start pressing for the changes that count?

THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW
The Independent 8 July 1998

Dancing all the way to the bank

Lilian Hochhauser is in the business of filling opera houses, but playing safe with ballet billing can only get you so far. By Louise Levene

Peter Abegglen takes a leap into the private sector in the Royal Ballet's 'La Bayadère' *Laurie Lewis*

Some idiot once said that there is no such thing as bad publicity. Tell that to the Royal Opera House. Daily horror stories about resignations and sackings coupled with the withering analysis of Gerald Kaufman and Richard Eyre have convinced the paying public that those in charge of Covent Garden couldn't run a bath.

Forward planning has not been a strong point. They knew the Opera House was closing. So how come they ended up playing to thin houses at the Shaftesbury Theatre and the Hammersmith Apollo? The Royal Ballet rather fancied the Coliseum for summer '98. Fat chance. The impresario Victor Hochhauser has virtually had a season ticket for the Coliseum's summer months since 1970, bringing over the Kirov, the Bolshoi and the American Ballet Theatre.

"We do have this lien on the theatre," says Lilian Hochhauser. "We've been almost in residence there for 30 years." But all was not lost. There were no Russians coming this year so a deal was struck and the Royal Ballet climbed into bed with the private sector in return for a flat fee. This meant that Mrs Hochhauser, not Sir Anthony Dowell, got to choose the ballets.

Mrs Hochhauser has very firm ideas about what the public will and won't buy. She's very wary of *Giselle*. The romantic love tragedy has been a vehicle for some of the greatest ballerinas who ever lived, but it can be the kiss of death at the box office. "The dancers love it, critics love it but the ending is sad, the composer isn't widely known and the public has never turned out in large numbers for it." Basically, what they want is *Swan Lake* and plenty of it, and Mrs Hochhauser is not the woman to deny them.

"The Tchaikovsky ballets are the thing – I wish he'd written a fourth really." This firm belief in the pulling power of Peter Ilyich means that both *Swan Lake* and *Sleeping Beauty* are on the menu during the Royal Ballet's Coliseum season. And both are selling well. What hasn't been selling so fast is the triple bill. You suspect that in her heart of hearts Mrs Hochhauser is not a big believer in triple bills. "They don't attract the public." So why did she let the Royal Ballet have one? "I didn't choose it but here was a moment when they wanted to do what they wanted to do and I know when I'm beaten."

Lilian's involvement with the Royal Ballet will be even greater now that she has been appointed to Covent Garden's Ballet Board. This is a nebulous gathering of the dance-minded arts professionals that meets several times a year in some sort of advisory capacity – although quite what Richard Jarman, the current artistic director of the Royal Opera House, will do with all this advice is anyone's guess.

Mrs Hochhauser is suitably proud and humble at her appointment. "I think I've become some kind of ballet expert over the years and I joined with alacrity, but there are and will be problems."

If she had been on board earlier what advice would she have given to help the Royal Ballet through the ill-fated season at Hammersmith? She pulls a face. Handsome Hampstead ladies in Armani suits like Mrs Hochhauser don't really do Hammersmith. "You were in tears by the time you got there."

OK, so the Apollo was the venue from hell, but did that make it unmarketable? You can practically hear her adding-machine-like brain ticking over as she makes the best of the problem she's been set. She responds almost instantly and her solutions are an invigorating draught of neat common sense: "I would have spent more on newspaper advertising. I place a lot of my trust in newspaper advertising." She has very little faith in the mailing list as a sales tool: "Lists are extremely costly. It's OK if you have a list of people who are specifically interested in that company, that rep, but very often these lists are quite general." In the event the Royal Ballet was using its mailing list to offload unsold tickets: "The prices were too high for that place." Ticket offers of any kind are anathema to her – they prove that you got it wrong: "Discounts create a lot of ill will with people who've paid full price."

Mrs Hochhauser knows that dance doesn't sell itself and her long experience of the market makes her very dubious about the whole idea of a "dance house" for London. "I think it's a very bad idea. I know what it is to fill the Coliseum for five weeks let alone 52. I just don't see the point of it."

Mrs Hochhauser's doggedly unimaginative approach has served her well, but she is firmly in the business of giving people what they want and expect. She doesn't like taking risks and her long experience in the unsubsidised sector seems to make her incapable of imagining the audience you might get if you offered it something totally new at prices it could easily afford.

Is she absolutely sure a dance house couldn't be made to work? Think of the audiences you could attract with the likes of New York City or Paris Opera Ballet, Mark Morris, Pina Bausch... Mrs Hochhauser smiles indulgently. "When you're in the ballet world these things are very meaningful but it's not so with the general public. If you put Pina Bausch on at the Coliseum you'd be lucky if you had half a house."

It's depressing, it's unimaginative but it's a very professional attitude and it contrasts bracingly with the – go on, say it – rather amateur approach often seen at Covent Garden. The Royal Opera House has a lot to learn from this hard-headed way with audiences and budgets, but they shouldn't sign up for the whole course. The Hochhausers have served ballet and the ballet-going public splendidly over the past 40 years but they exist principally to make money. Ultimately Covent Garden exists to make art.

Royal Ballet, London Coliseum, to 1 Aug (0171-632 8300)

Just a knockout

OPERA

PUNCH AND JUDY
CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

Punch is a demented Everyman *Marilyn Kingwill*

THE CHELTENHAM Festival of Music has its share of premieres this year but, as a composer himself, artistic director Michael Berkeley knows that new work needs not only a first performance, but a revival, and preferably many more to follow. He decided that this year's festival should open with Music Theatre Wales's new staging of Harrison Birtwistle's *Punch and Judy*, first performed at the 1978 Aldeburgh Festival, when Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears famously left early. There were early departures at Cheltenham too, but by and large, the audience remained attentive to an intelligent staging, well-sung and beautifully played.

Which is not to say there were no problems. In a lengthy programme note, librettist Stephen Pruslin says he and Birtwistle saw *Punch and Judy* as "an opera about opera". Thirty years ago, that may have been desirable, but now, with new opera all but dying on its feet, opera must be much more than that. Pruslin's libretto is wordy, poetic in a preeningly mannered style, and the narrative structure, too, is overly elaborate, with a sequence of Melodramas, Passion Chorales and Quests looking sound on paper but less clear on stage, where the heavy symbolism becomes obscure.

Birtwistle saw musical drama then, as now, as a cycle of obsessively repeated rituals, and there's no doubt that Pruslin's libretto fired his imagination. In Michael McCarthy's production, the ensemble of 14 players is onstage, agent as well as commentator of the drama. Simon Banham's set is dominated by a huge frame which also functions as a gibbet for Punch's multiple murders. Through the frame we see the orchestra, and beyond that, Punch from time-to-time rides his cock-horse in search of Pretty Polly.

Polly herself, bravely sung by Nicola-Jane Kemp, is all crazy coloratura, and hence dressed in canary yellow. More doll than person, she allows some kind of redemption, but one made hollow by the distancing commentary of narrator, Choregos (the superb Jeremy Huw Williams), here a ringmaster intent on control and obedience. If Judy (Carol Rowlands) is little more than a cipher, a punchbag so to speak, Punch is a demented Everyman, murdering his way towards oblivion. Gwion Thomas's performance is typically intense, although his clown-like characterisation lacks the last degree of nastiness.

If Birtwistle's extortionate vocal lines often sacrifice expression to Expressionism, the cast did everything possible to get the words across. The instrumental writing, on the other hand, is superbly accomplished, allowing lyricism to emerge from the clash and clamour. Michael Rafferty, conducting a Music Theatre Wales Ensemble including many of our finest performers of contemporary music, was in excellent form; perhaps being able to see the opera helped?

NICK KIMBERLEY

Further performances: 11 July, Queen Elizabeth Hall, London (0171-960 4242); 28 July, Aberystwyth Arts Centre (01970 623232)

Decibels, death riffs and howling despair

MELTDOWN

EXTREME NOISE TERROR
ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL LONDON

EXTREME NOISE Terror once machine-gunned a Brit Awards audience with blanks. Tonight they must be feeling lenient. They just regale us with death riffs and blast beats, and in-between "songs" complain sympathetically about the price of tickets (£12). The cost explains why the arena is only half full. A softer band would shrivel at the sight of all that space.

The burly peroxide frontman, Dean Jones, vomits a roar he somehow sustains, track after track. It's hard to tell them apart but that doesn't matter – grindcore is about relentlessness, rather than texture. Leave that to ambient.

ENT skulk about, rather than dance. Boring, you might say. But their demeanour lends them conviction. They manifestly believe in their act, which removes the need to hype it up – no Damon Albarn leaps.

The drummer, Was, (ex-Cradle of Filth) keeps the beat with venomous dedication. ENT pretty much live up to their name. Extreme noise they give. For that reason each steward is equipped with a pair of yellow earplugs. But it would take more than cement to block the din. It seems to rock every cell in your body.

It's certainly dangerous but not quite terrifying. Then again, the Devil would have trouble inspiring that emotion in the Queen Elizabeth Hall. Well done, ENT. Follow that, Meltdown of Control, billed to perform an "epic Japcore spectacular". They match ENT for brutality but differ in their spaced-out quality, which wins them heckling and accusations of tripping from the ENT fans.

But unfazed Meltdown mix Tangerine Dream-style ocean roar with howls of despair and "Blue Monday" drum machine. Guitar keening, the singer struts bendily all over the stage and then, apparently tiring of that, lets out a high-pitched roar. And holds it.

The sound calls to mind an abattoir saw. It's getting too much but now comes a moment which lightens things up: a spidery, half-naked Jesus hauls himself onto the stage, and crawls towards the singer, waving his arms. The whole audience seems to crane forward. You can almost hear them thinking, this looks juicy.

Then, with one hand, a bouncer yanks the dissident out of the spotlight and drags him into the shadows. A minute later Jesus is back, propped in his seat. Meltdown go into overdrive. They slam a sheet of copper against a speaker, and stab the keyboard frantically. As if to kill it. As if it once had been implicated in melody.

DAVID WILSON

هكذا من الاصل

Goodbye to the gingham set

The choreography for *Oklahoma!* has always been off-limits. Only one person could be trusted to change it – Susan Stroman. By David Benedict

Susan Stroman (above left) was given carte blanche with her 'Oklahoma!' (above), which bears little resemblance to the original production *Laurie Lewis (above and above left)*

"It's just something about this show. There's been a lot of laughter in rehearsals. I think Trevor Nunn is smiling more than he has in a long time," says Susan Stroman. And with good reason. Not only is he helming *Oklahoma!*, one of the most revolutionary musicals of all time, but he's got choreographer Stroman on board.

This 40-something woman from Wilmington, Delaware, single-handedly reminded Broadway (and London) of the power of dance with audiences and critics going nuts over her electrifying work on the revamped Gershwin musical, *Crazy For You*, which exploded on to Broadway six years ago. It happened again at London's Prince Edward Theatre and on a year-long tour. That same theatre is now hosting Hal Prince's grand revival of the ground-breaking *Show Boat*. Its second act is famously problematic, with a climax which almost never has real emotional weight. This time, a cunningly integrated new dance sequence lifts the temperature and propels you to the finish. The choreographer? Stroman, of course.

In this country, the composer/lyricist team of Rodgers and Hammerstein is probably best known for the sugary, precision-engineered *The Sound of Music*. Back home, they're the guys behind *Oklahoma!*, the musical which, dance-wise, broke the mould, making Stroman the dream choice to take it on. So much so that the normally wary Rodgers and Hammerstein estate have virtually laid down and played dead.

In half a century, no professional production has ever been allowed to mess with Agnes de Mille's original choreography. It was her first Broadway show – she'd been fired from two others – and the first Rodgers and Hammerstein collaboration, but it made everyone's names and smashed records. No-one before de Mille had ever used dance to such dramatic effect. Without it, we might never have had Bernstein's *On the Town*, let alone *West Side Story*. Not only did de Mille use dance to flesh out character and mood, but he dared to close the first act on a 15 minute ballet dramatising the fantasies and fears of Laurey, the central character.

The estate has given the creative team *carte blanche*. This tends to happen when Stroman's around. She had the same freedom with Jerome Kern's music on *Show Boat*, and before that on Gershwin's *Crazy For You*. "I think I have a track record in developing music for dance without being sacrilegious," she says, modestly.

Had she been offered the project in the USA, she probably wouldn't have done it. "It's so done there. Americans still romanticise the West but Trevor is going back to what it was really like in 1905. Americans want red bandannas, gingham skirts and flowers in their hair."

The combination of the National and Nunn was the attraction. "Trevor talked about his vision of it in a way I had never heard. He's gone back to the original play, *Green Grow the Lilacs*, and interpolated some of the dialogue, and David Krane has come up with entirely new dance arrangements. It's as if we're doing it for the first time."

It's certainly tougher than its reputation as a corny "girl-gets-the-right-guy" show would suggest. Oklahoma was about to become a state and the text deals with the social change and how it affects the "territory folks" who are living together and staking claims on the land. "When I met Trevor, he said the most important line in the show was Aunt Eller singing "I don't say I'm no better than anybody else/But I'll be damned if I ain't jist as good!" That kind of sums up the way people felt. It really sums up *Oklahoma!*"

Most choreographers begin when their dancing days are numbered but Stroman knew that choreography was what she wanted to do from the word go. "Even when I was very small, I visualised music. Whether it was classical or rock 'n' roll or an old standard, I would always imagine hordes of people dancing in my head. It's almost an obsession." She studied piano and guitar but has been dancing all her life.

Yet what really distinguishes her is her dedication to theatre. "Dance is an affirmation of life. People really connect with it when they see it but in a musical it has to be believable. If you can't work it in properly then it will be, as you say, 'naff'. Musicals of the Twenties and Thirties had 'star turns'. You could stop everything for Ethel Merman to sing "I Got Rhythm" and if it had nothing to do with anything then that was fine. But modern audiences have a more cinematic eye. Dance has to move the plot."

Finding the cast, all of whom have to be actor/singer/dancers, took forever but the result is, that instead of having dancers take over as the leads in the crucial dream ballet, the same performers do everything. "Today's audience won't take Laurey dreaming about a chorus boy we've never seen before." Another typically character-driven rethink is the girls' number, "Many a New Day". Traditionally this features them in bloomers doing *faux Swan Lake* steps and leads more critically-minded viewers to wonder how slow-poke cowmen and farmers managed to send their daughters to ballet school. Stroman and Nunn have gone for realism. "It's more like pioneer women talking about these men."

Despite the visceral thrill of her most vivid recreations, Stroman's first love is new work. Her collaborations with Kander and Ebb led her to workshop their *Kiss of the Spiderwoman* towards the beginning of her career. They've worked together since, but it wasn't a happy experience and she never did the full show. Nevertheless, she learned something from the workshop.

"When you're young you need to be able to speak out with any idea. Even if it's silly it will spark an idea in a senior collaborator's brain. It's about not being intimidated by the track record of your collaborators. That was very early for me and I was working with the best." It's seven years later and this time she's got figures like Nunn and designer Anthony Ward surrounding her, but she's wised up. She laughs, loudly. "I have a big old mouth now. Even if it doesn't come out right, it's out there."

HANDS OFF!

WHEN LITERARY ESTATES PLAY TOUGH

Those entrusted with looking after literary estates can be ferocious in their zeal, and Samuel Beckett has probably enjoyed the best protection. Four years ago, his nephew and heir, Edward, who had once previously halted an all-female production of *Waiting for Godot*, took issue with a version of *Footfalls* at the Garrick. The director, Deborah Warner, and the actress, Fiona Shaw (pictured below), came a cropper when they attempted to fiddle about with Beckett's

stage directions for the 1976 production, which featured his thespian muse, Billie Whitelaw, and consisted of a 20-minute dialogue – which was originally a radio play – between the repressed, obsessional May (Shaw) and her unseen, dying or dead mother.

"I as a theatre practitioner appear to be a better friend to Beckett than the estate. These plays are not museum pieces," said Warner when permission for a planned French tour was withdrawn.

"She will not be doing Beckett again," Schmidt supposedly said, though a few days later he wrote a letter to the papers denying that Warner had been excommunicated. The French tour was still off, he said, but she could direct his uncle's work in the future ("and I personally hope that she does," he added) – as long as she stuck to the stage directions.

Executors are not always so obstructively protective. Michael Grandage, producer of Bernard Shaw's *The Doctor's Dilemma* at the Almeida, feared a similar experience to Warner, but had the reverse experience: "I rang up Michael Holroyd [of the Shaw estate] and said, 'There are a couple of cuts I'd like to make, but I understand it's not possible ...' But he immediately said, 'No, please, please ... we need to make these plays live for now.'"

JULIA WERDIGIER

Don't make a drama out of a tragedy

ON THE FRINGE

DOMINIC CAVENDISH

ZEITGEIST THEATRE company's The Galitzian Jewess is one of the most engrossing and affecting pieces I have seen on the fringe in a long while. Yet applying the usual critical standards, Brigitte Schwaiger's monologue, translated by Penny Black, is no great shakes. The language is unremarkable, the turns of phrase inert, and in terms of structure, this account of a young Jewish woman's struggle to survive and rootless wanderings in Poland during the Second World War is episodic and rambling.

The production nevertheless derives considerable power from its authenticity: the play is based on a biography of a Polish Jew named Eva Deutsch, who managed to pass herself off as a Roman Catholic and escape the gas chamber. On stage, the bald descriptions of the inhuman punishment meted out to Jews following the German invasion sound like verbatim transcriptions of still searing memories – it is the documentary detachment, the refusal to make a neat drama out of a real tragedy, that allows the audience to respond to the complexities of this particular case history. It's impossible to divide those who collaborated with the Nazis and destroyed Deutsch's family, and those who helped her escape, along ethnic or religious lines: unexpected acts of courage came from Roman Catholics; bewildering betrayals from fellow Jews.

"He was a dangerous dog, worse than the Gestapo," Eva says of the Nazi-appointed Jewish policeman who turned in her 13-year-old brother. On an earth-strewn stage, framed against a stark video projection that charts an interminable course through swaying, leafless branches, Katrina Syron plays Eva with a winning grace-under-pressure that never strays into self-conscious heroics. Whether recounting narrow escapes from the German or close shaves with wild boar, Syron tells the story simply, looking her audience squarely in the eye – and in so doing makes a compelling case for this kind of unadorned sequence of memories.

The same cannot quite be said for Yes, My Führer, an earlier Schwaiger monologue that now acts as a companion piece. Inspired by the life of her mother, an Austrian, it attempts to show why Hitler made so many *Hausfrauen* go weak at the knees and dares to suggest that not all of them repented their Nazi zeal.

Being picked on at school, abused by her mother – these are some of the well-rehearsed anecdotes offered by the anonymous woman (Jacqueline Pilton) to explain the allure of the National Socialist collective ego-boost. "You could kill me for being a Nazi, but don't laugh at me," she pleads. Unfortunately, the production prefers the easy laughs afforded by her incongruous cuteness to more painful soul-searching. Recalling going out shopping with her baby, she jokes: "His little arm would shoot right up in the air." Shades of Mrs Merton are the last thing you need when examining one of Hitler's willing executioners.

There is more unnecessary comedy in Brian Blessed's directorial debut – a 50th anniversary tour of The Glass Menagerie. Before you attempt Tennessee Williams's tale of cooped-up ambitions and unhealthy dreams you need to be pretty sure you've found a cast that are up to the accents. The play may be set in Thirties' St Louis, but after two hours it felt as though we'd been from Jamaica to Dublin and back, via Eton.

It's best not to dwell on the set – the junk shop interior, the *Blue Peter*-competition cityscape, or Blessed's little flourishes. Such "tricks" as pumping out the Superman theme-tune prior to the arrival of the gentleman caller who breaks wallflower Laura's heart do not constitute "the magic of theatre" his programme note suggests Williams "believed in". Only Phillipa Peak, whose Laura is as frail and mesmerising as the glass creatures she worships, allowed us to enter a landscape of pained desire.

'The Galitzian Jewess' and 'Yes, My Führer' in rep to Sun, Etcetera Theatre, London NW1 (0171-482 4857); 'The Glass Menagerie' to 19 Jul, BAC, London SW11 (0171-223 2223)

TELEVISION

'One's admiration for Rosalind's resilience can't really be separated from her strikingly blokeish appearance'

– THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 24

DEBUT

THE AUTHOR: *Sinead Cusack*
THE TIME: *1966*
THE PLACE: *The Abbey Theatre, Dublin*
THE ROLE: *Everyman's First Love in 'One for the Grave'*

"THE SEMINAL moment in my acting career was the first night of *One for the Grave* by Louis MacNeice, the production chosen to mark the opening of the new Abbey Theatre. The old building had burned down in 1951 and the Abbey Theatre company had since been housed at the Queen's Theatre. I had landed the juvenile lead and I was pretty excited – I was just an 18-year-old student.

I was playing Everyman's First Love, who represented all that is innocent and pure in a woman. I had this very touching scene down at the front of the stage with Pat Layde, who was Everyman. It was his character's first foray into the world of female sexuality. We were supposed to be by a river, and stare off into the middle-distance. I had the immortal line, 'Look at that couple in the punt'.

Someone in the rehearsals had warned me to be very careful about that line, in case it came out the wrong way round. I told him not to be so disgusting – the thought hadn't entered my head. I was a good convent girl, after all. Well, sure enough, I committed the spoonerism on the first night, in front of an audience of VIPs. Instead of carrying on, I back-tracked and tried to find my way out of it, by which time the audience were on their feet and roaring. Layde was shaking with laughter. All I can remember is the hot flush of mortification, the sheen of tears across my eyes. I have blotted out everything that happened subsequently – whether the director bollocked me, I can't remember. I didn't repeat the mistake, but my card was marked from that moment on and I was kicked out after three months. I had to go across the water to establish myself.

The episode did traumatise me for quite a while. In fact, it took me years to recover. There has never been anything as bad, but the few times in my career when I have dried, there has been a terror that the problem will become increasingly more difficult to deal with. Somehow you come through it, though, and it doesn't frighten you so much that you never go on stage again. I suppose some part of me must enjoy living on that knife-edge."

Sinead Cusack is currently appearing in 'Our Lady of Sligo' in rep at the Cottesloe, RNT, London, SE1 (0171-452 3000)

CLOTHES LINE

OUT OF THE CLOSET

JOHN ROCHA SHOWED HIS NEW MENSWEAR COLLECTION IN PARIS ON SATURDAY. IN BETWEEN FITTINGS, HE REVEALS THE ZEN OF T-SHIRTS AND JEANS.

"THE ONE thing I always have is the same T-shirt. I have kept the pattern from about three years ago and make up about a dozen for myself each season. People think I am wearing the same one every day! It fits me very well and the fabric drapes nicely. I get lots of comments like 'John, you lost weight'.

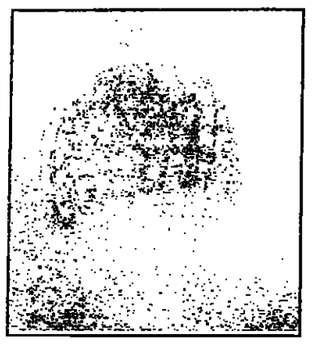
"From my collection for spring/summer '99, there are two leather jackets I really fancy for myself. There's a concealed one-button blazer and another more casual 'nothing' jacket.

"When I design, I think of my shape, but in terms of how I was at different ages, at 28, 38 and how I will be at 48. I'm 45 now. With my T-shirts, I wear jeans. They're my own jeans – I have six pairs of them made up each season. I get up in the morning and wear the same jeans and the same T-shirt – that way there are no complications. The jeans are a dark blue-black colour. The only item I have to buy is shoes. They are by Yohji Yamamoto. That's my wardrobe – a dozen T-shirts, six pairs of jeans and two jackets for summer and two for winter. I'm also wearing a big gypsy ring and a matching bangle that I designed to go with my watch.

INTERVIEW BY TAMSIN BLANCHARD

HOT THING

NEW DESIGNER EXHIBITION



THE NEW Designer exhibition opens tomorrow at the Business Design Centre in north London. After the summer's degree shows, this is the opportunity to look at new graduates' work and buy it before they are snapped up for the job market. Three thousand graduates will exhibit, with hundreds of stands and work to see and buy, from jewellery to fashion, textiles and furniture.

Two to watch are Juliette Tweedie, and Stephen Barnett, whose work is pictured. Juliette is a graduate from the Garment Design course at Glasgow School of Art. Stephen is from the 3-D course at Brighton University, and both are rising stars of the future.

Young graduates often struggle upon entering the commercial market, so this exhibition provides a perfect opportunity for trade and industry to head-hunt for the next Alexander McQueen or Phillipe Starck. The consumer can do this too: a student piece might turn into an investment for the future.

The first exhibition runs on July 9-12 including interior design and product design, as well as jewellery, metalwork, and glass; the second (July16-19) will feature graphics, illustration, textiles advertising and fashion.

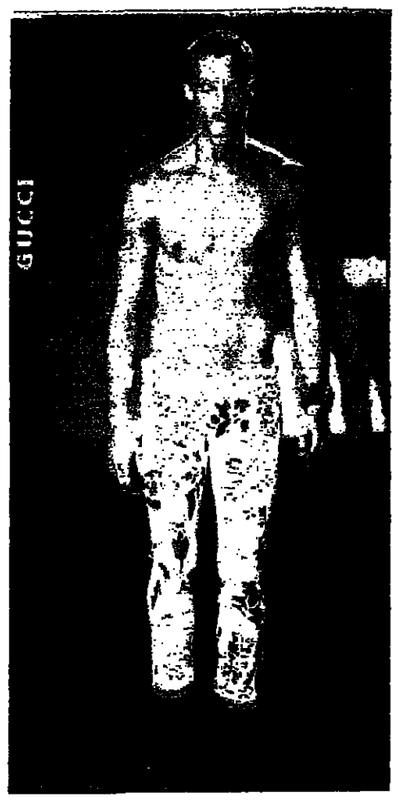
Tickets are £6, £4 concessions. Inquiries: 0171-359 3535.

HANNAH HUNTER

FASHION TYPES

MENSWEAR

PARIS AND MILAN SPRING 1999



Nick Sullivan of *Arena* and **Karen Watson** of Harvey Nichols select the best of the menswear collections from Milan and Paris. Photographs by **Andrew Thomas**

The experts' choice

Nick Sullivan is associate fashion editor at *Arena*. His job is to interpret the trends and looks on the catwalks into magazine pages and fashion pictures to which readers of *Arena* will relate and aspire. In Milan, Prada was a highlight. "The Prada shop is like a supermarket at the moment," he says. He bought two pairs of trousers at the Milan store, because "they're really well cut – they fit really well". In Paris, the collection for Yves Saint Laurent Rive Gauche stole the shows along with the modern spectacle of Raf Simons, with hundreds of models marching to the sounds of David Bowie. "The models in the show reached new heights of skinniness," he says.

Yves Saint Laurent Rive Gauche

"Very high-quality fabric and design. There were great bum freezer jackets – not that anyone actually wears those jackets, but they're a good idea. The collection has been bought by lots of new stores who would never have stocked YSL a few seasons ago because it was so classic."

Raf Simons

"The cutting and tailoring gets better each season. Simons is offering an alternative to sportswear. He does amazing tailoring – trousers tailored at the waist and double pleated from the knee. No, I wouldn't wear them, but that doesn't stop me from liking them. They're an alternative to combats and trainers – this collection is craft- and skill-based. It is also a very commercial collection."

Prada

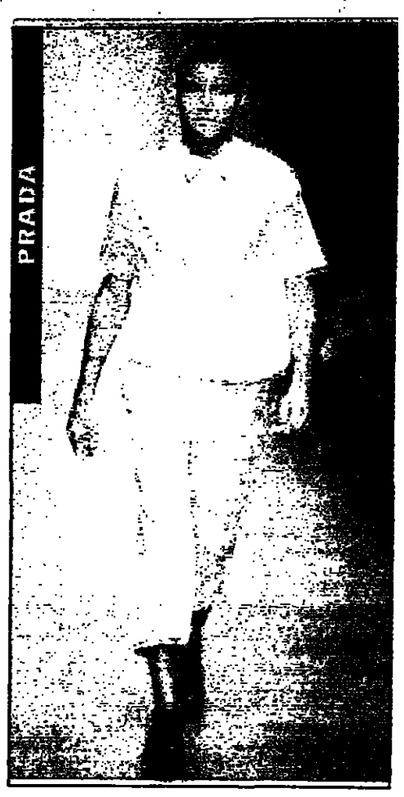
"There was a lot of sportswear mixed in, which is, of course, what people are wearing. There was a great red nylon hooded cape which looked like a parka. Lots of raw edges and laser-cut sportswear."

Gucci

"It was a very good collection. The bit I liked best was the tailoring – jackets worn with black fatigues, slightly gathered at the knee for ease of movement. Tom Ford mixed formal tops with scruffy bottoms. The maddest thing he did was a Neoprene wetsuit printed with tropical fish – it was silly, but I quite liked it. There were also jeans in Seventies French farmhouse wallpaper and rhinestone-encrusted baggy trousers – Elvis before the last hamburger. They will have a limited market but they are quite good fun."

Jil Sander

"There were casual chinos with Velcro tabs, gathered trousers with elasticated half backs and a long, thin, neatly tailored leather coat with raw edges. The key shapes were macs and blousons. There was almost no tailoring. Like most of the other designers, Sander is concentrating on sportswear."



Karen Watson, head of buying for menswear at Harvey Nichols, returned on Monday from a two-week trawl of the menswear collections in Milan and Paris. The summer 98 collection has only just gone into the sale at the Knightsbridge and Leeds shops, but already Watson is planning the looks that men will want to buy next spring.

"We see things in the showroom that the fashion press don't necessarily see on the catwalk," she says. "The details on a lot of the clothes were very subtle – you don't really appreciate the fabrics and detailing until you look at the garments close up. Overall, men's clothes for next summer are very relaxed and soft. There is a blurring of the boundaries between what is a shirt, a jacket and a coat." Here, Karen gives us the low-down on the key trends for next spring.

Dolce e Gabbana

"There was a lot of Pollock-inspired paint splash in the collections in both Milan and Paris. Dolce e Gabbana was a really commercial collection. This print will make the collection stand out on the rails."

Raf Simons

"The silhouette of Raf Simons is really important. This was a collection about fantastic trousers. It's a layered look – a leather bomber jacket with cut-off sleeves over a cut-off top worn over really long, wide trousers. It's a bit punk-inspired. Our customers wouldn't wear them quite that long. They pool over your sport shoes. It's a good, modern look."

Issey Miyake

"He is the king of the creased and deconstructed – a strong influence for next summer. His crushed fabrics are an easy look and white is a colour men will always wear."

Prada

"The fabrics were superb and the new Prada Sport collection is a good way of moving Prada forward. It's a very commercial look – great fabrics and beautiful little details."

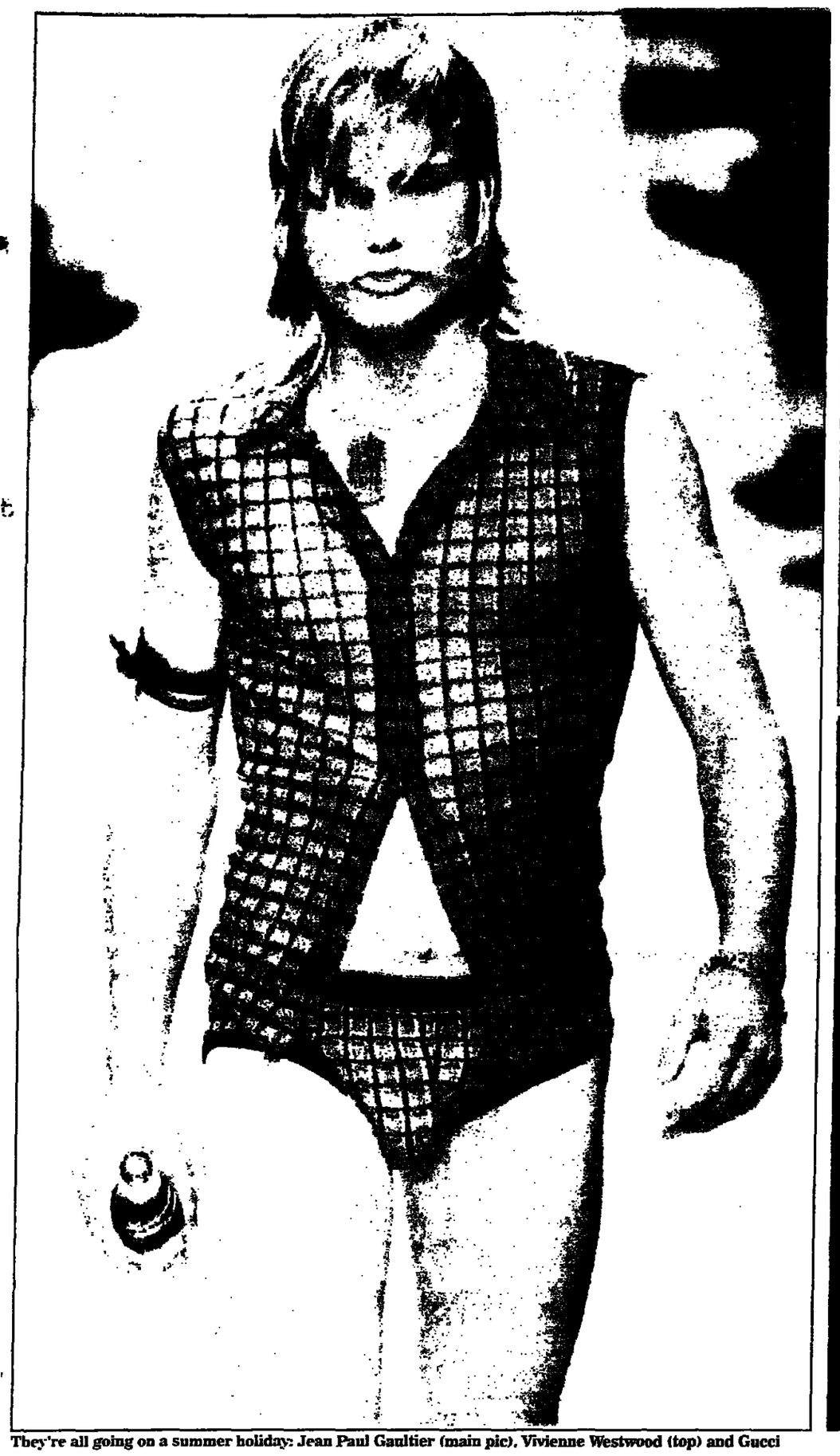
Yves Saint Laurent Rive Gauche

"It was sharp and used all Yves Saint Laurent's past references, like the trench coat, the Smoking jacket. The fabrics are luxurious and drapey. It looks modern but they haven't thrown away the Yves of the past."

MENSWEAR
PARIS AND MILAN SPRING 1999

Fashion's last resort

Tartan shorts, flip-flops and Kajagoogoo haircuts are the hot thing in menswear as German package tourists' style give designers their inspiration. By **Adrian Clark**



They're all going on a summer holiday: Jean Paul Gaultier (main pic), Vivienne Westwood (top) and Gucci *Andrew Thomas*

Any man who has ever sacrificed his standard two-week vacation by opting to take the package tour route would be forced to agree that a bucket shop buy can be many things, but fashionable is not one of them. A cheap package is an opportunity to let your hair down, an excuse to get a low budget tan and consume bucketfuls of lager without running the risk of being caught out by a more discerning crowd. Those 14 days and nights abroad usually have more to do with having fun (depending on how near to being finished the hotel is), but very little to do with sartorial elegance.

That was until the menswear shows in Milan and Paris last week. The idea that a quick getaway to a Greek island or the Costa del Tourismo could never be considered chic, is now a theory seriously under debate.

If the collections we saw in Milan and Paris are to be believed, then British men will be shrugging off their double-breasted suits in favour of a style which is taken directly from the glossy pages of a travel brochure. Tourist Class is the ultimate call.

Nobody pursued the newfound interest in holiday chic more convincingly than Jean-Paul Gaultier. His collection drew its ideas from the uniform worn by German tourists on the Algarve. Without a single reference to beach towels on sun loungers, the Frenchman chose long socks, flip-flops and Kajagoogoo inspired haircuts to accessorise layers of khaki mesh and tartan shorts and vests. Gaultier's spin on a beach robe is well tailored in satin deckchair stripes.

Vivienne Westwood, the Brit who opts to showcase her menswear in Milan, was also in holiday mood. For Viv, a new way with Caribbean cool was the order of the day, offering tropical floral prints on cotton and towelling in the form of sarongs, and separates in cocktail colours.

Gucci, under the competent direction of Tom Ford, showed a little more class (just a little), with a brilliant take on West Coast playboy style – sixties inspired Hawaiian florals on narrow pants or wetsuits, while jeans that had the Vegas Strip written all over them were embroidered in rhinestones and patchworked in pony skin.

D-Squared, a new name in Milan designed by twin brothers Dan and Dean Caten, was on good form. Models stepped out from a camper van onto white sand, dressed in American trash clothing straight off a Miami Beach volleyball game.

American flag layered vests, fishing hats and combat shorts were finished off with beer bottle openers worn on chains around the neck.

As is usually the case there are alternatives to Tourist Chic, for the man who wants to look sharp without having to reach for the aftersun and sangria. For him, the inspiration comes from the work of Jackson Pollock and Bridget Riley as designed by Dolce and Gabbana and So. Paul Smith caught the art bug too, with uptight art dealers in pinstriped suits, followed by disheveled fine artists in watercolour stained knits, ripped jeans and inside-out tailored jackets. The artists' palette spilt over onto the catwalks in both cities. There was lilac and parma violet at Versace (under the direction of Donatella), apricot and ice blue at Jil Sander, and shades of kiwi green with mauve from Miyake.

The two collections that will be the first choice for fashionable men the world over come from Hedi Slimane the new menswear designer at Yves Saint Laurent, and the Belgian Raf Simons. And if you happen to be on holiday in the Algarve over the next few weeks, take note. German tourists have got the look.

Adrian Clark is fashion director of Attitude magazine.

MENSWEAR
PARIS AND MILAN SPRING 1999

YSL suits the in crowd once again

No invitations were sent out for the Yves Saint Laurent Rive Gauche menswear show last January. A few strategically placed calls were simply made to a handful of editors and buyers, who gathered in a Parisian art gallery to view the collection. The audience may have been small, but the news spread quickly: Saint Laurent for men was once again a very hot fashion ticket.

Saint Laurent first launched his menswear line back in 1969. His motivation, he claimed, was the fact that he could not find what he himself wanted to wear elsewhere. "I would like men to liberate themselves like women have done", he said at the time, and proposed a distinctly non-classical way of dressing. There was not one suit in the first few collections. Instead, there were laced shirts, safari jackets, printed shirts and brightly coloured knitwear. The likes of Andy Warhol, The Beatles and Rudolph Nureyev all flocked to the tiny menswear boutique on the Left Bank, and Mick Jagger chose to wear Saint Laurent for his wedding to Bianca. Later on, he became the first designer to offer ready to wear dinner suits.

After only a few years, however, Saint Laurent handed over the creation of the collection to an in-house design studio and as time went on, it gradually become more and more sober and staid. Then, two years ago, designer Hedi Slimane was brought in to give the label a second lease of life. He has succeeded beautifully.

After studying art history, the 30-year-old Slimane slipped into fashion almost by chance. At the end of the Eighties, he started helping out his designer friend José Levy and later moved onto the French high street label, New Man. Since arriving at Saint Laurent, he has tried to "rediscover the spirit" of the original menswear and has delved into the haute couture archives for inspiration.

In the spring/summer 1999 show, which was shown on Sunday, he revived several classics, while giving them a bit of a twist. There were several variations of the famous smoking jacket, numerous trench coats, laced shirts and velvet dressing gowns worn over trousers. The fabrics were mostly couture quality, with lots of cashmeres, grain de poudre and crêpe de Chine, and there was a wonderful sense of proportion. Slimane also played successfully with Saint Laurent's androgynous side without slipping into the over-camp. There were beautifully cut high-waisted trousers without either zips or pockets. Elegant tunic tops were slit to the stomach, T-shirts cut short to expose the midriff and feminine flowing silk scarves wrapped around the neck. Hoods on tops and leather trousers, jackets and ties also added a bit of hip modernity.

"It's great that someone is putting an edgy youthful spirit into a classic French line", says Godfrey Deeny, editor-in-chief of *Vogue Homes International*. "He has gone through the archives, picked out what is best and blended it with the modern zeitgeist."

An ad campaign starring DJ Dimitri from Paris and shot by Juergen Teller has also done small wonders for updating the image and the trendiest international boutiques, which would not have given Saint Laurent menswear a second look a few years ago, are now clammering to stock the collection. The windows of Paris's hippest store, Colette, were devoted to YSL during the men's collections. It has also been picked up by Joseph in London and Charivari in New York.

Furthermore, a new 300 square-metre Saint Laurent menswear boutique is due to open this September in SoHo in New York. It has been designed by architect Richard Gluckman (whose previous projects include the Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh and the Berlin Guggenheim) and promises to be the best in a new generation of Saint Laurent stores.

It will be reminiscent of an art gallery and is certain to attract the sort of clientele Saint Laurent himself aimed to please at the outset "I will leave others to make boring suits for boring people and boring occasions", he said in 1969. Slimane's collections are certainly far from boring. In fact, they are about the most exciting thing happening in men's fashion at the moment.

IAN PHILLIPS

TRY ME

A garment that can really make a change

IS IT a skirt? Is it a dress? No, it's the StarckNaked, a one-piece fashion miracle designed by Phillipe Starck for Wolford. When it arrived here it looked like a pile of discarded black opaque tights, but the chic explanatory packaging revealed another story. Beautiful model wears black tights and black mini-skirt, ditto for knee-length, calf-length and full-length skirts. Beautiful model also wears full-length boob tube dress with or without straps. It's being called "technically advanced multi-wear", and yes, all of these looks can be achieved with one piece of clothing. It looks sizeist, but I am assured it is a garment for confident women, regardless of size, who can wear body-hugging clothes with aplomb.

The most difficult bit is getting it on. The StarckNaked appears to be an incredibly long tube skirt, with a thick elasticated waistband; look inside, however, and attached to the waistband (dangling within the skirt bit) is a pair of 80 denier black tights. Work out the tights and the rest is child's play (except that it's practically impossible to go the toilet whilst wearing it).

Wolford say, grandly, that it "feels more like a service than a product", and that Starck approached the idea "without the pretense nor the ambition to conquer". I'd say it's a logical progression from Slip-On's, launched last year by Monica Zipper, which provided several individual garments from a high denier stocking fabric. It's the sort of wonder product that will become essential for women who travel a lot for work: it weighs next-to-nothing, doesn't crease, and can, as the saying goes, go from day into evening with just a quick trip to the ladies' room for adjustment. The drawback is that however often the dress/skirt length scenario can be adapted the tights stay the same.

MELANIE RICKEY

StarckNaked at Wolford, 3 South Molton St, London W1 (0171-935 9202). Mail order: 0171-499 2549. Price: £150

Watchdog services to merge

Ombudsmen provide justice for the public, but changes to the system are worrying many.

By **Iain Morse**

GOT A complaint about financial advice received or a savings product you have bought? Go to an Ombudsman. The Ombudsman system is designed to provide free, independent and readily accessible justice for consumers.

The different ombudsmen schemes have common features. They are paid for by industry providers, usually at a flat fee per complaint raised, and regardless of its outcome.

Consumers go to the Ombudsman after exhausting the internal complaints' procedure of the firm against which they are seeking redress. The Ombudsman's decision is binding on the firm, but complainants can then take their case to a court of law if unsatisfied.

Currently there are six financial services Ombudsmen: for banks, building societies, insurance, investments, pensions and the Personal Investment Authority (PIA), which covers financial advisers and investment firms.

These separate offices are going to be amalgamated into a new super-regulator, the Financial Services Authority, with a single Ombudsman. Not everyone is happy about this change, and have doubts whether it will bring tangible benefits to consumers.

Walter Merricks, the Insurance Ombudsman, cautions: "It will be a major task bringing together six schemes, each with their own dynamic, and the time scale for this remains unclear."

His colleagues are even more uncertain as to the merger's benefits: "One large office will not necessarily be more efficient than six smaller ones," warns the Building Societies' Brian Murphy. "Individually, I believe we are close to the ground, with good knowledge of our respective sectors. This can count for a great deal when matters of discretion – giving the benefit of the doubt – enter into our judgements."

Peter Dean, the Investment Ombudsman, also sees little to recommend the proposed changes. "My office is run with a staff of five and could not be more efficient. The cost of a larger, more bureaucratic office will ultimately be passed on to consumers.

"Because of EC regulations, the new scheme is likely to have quasi-judicial features, exactly what we were set up to avoid. Finally, whatever can be said of financial service regulators, I am not aware that the ombudsman system has failed the public, or had bad publicity."

The case for change rests partly on the ad hoc nature of the current system. Membership of the banking and insurance schemes is voluntary, while the building society scheme is mandatory. The PIA and investment schemes are contractual, but membership is a legal condition of carrying out investment business in the UK.

All ombudsmen can now award the same maximum level of compensation, £100,000, but because these schemes were set up separately, at different times, their rules may differ. For instance, time limits on mortgage complaints against building societies are shorter than those applying to banks.

The rules of particular schemes can also lead to some controversial outcomes. Since it was set up in 1987, the building society scheme has made its Ombudsman's decisions binding on members unless they exercised the "publicity option". This allows a society, in this case the Skipton Building Society, found against by the Ombudsman, to avoid making any financial restitution by publishing its reasons in the local and national press.

"It's only happened twice in our history," comments Mr Murphy. "But there is a risk that any settlement will reflect the fact that the society is no longer bound by my determination and, as a result, that the complainants have no bargaining power."

Cases like this argue for uniformity in the regulation of financial services, which the amalgamation of different ombudsmen schemes is intended to achieve.

But the key problem with this lies in the application of the European Convention on Human Rights to the proceedings of the new office. This convention guarantees the rights of those accused to a "fair and public hearing".

If the new scheme must be compulsory and semi-judicial, then applying the convention will mean that proceedings must be held in public, each side can be legally represented and call witnesses, who will be open to cross-examination.

Ombudsmen view this possibility with horror: "Oral hearings of this kind could take longer than the current system, which is based on written submissions," warns Brian Murphy. "And it may simply deter some members of the public. We must be sure to make the system user-friendly."

Some complaints, while not involving large awards, can be very complex. "Look at what can happen when a small business and their bank argue," observes David Thomas, the Banking Ombudsman. "You can have a situation analogous to a divorce. These can be very difficult to resolve, and a bank may want legal representation."

Of course, ombudsmen will be able to award legal costs as part of their settlement, but what if these exceed the amount of any award? The result could be that only those certain of winning will raise a complaint.

If you are in dispute with a financial services' provider, the Ombudsmen are there to help

THE RIGHT PERSON TO COMPLAIN TO

Personal Investment Ombudsman: resolves complaints by policy-holders and investors against firms regulated by the Personal Investment Authority (PIA), including all independent financial advisers (IFAs). Deals primarily with cases in breach of best advice and suitability rule. Also deals with misrepresentation of the nature of investments. Does deal with mix-selling of personal pensions, but not occupational pension schemes. Call 0171-216 0016.

Pensions Ombudsman: deals with maladministration in the management of pension schemes, where complaints are made against scheme trustees, managers, employers, administrators. Call 0171-834 9144.

Investment Ombudsman: deals with complaints made by investors against firms regulated by the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (IMRO), such as investment and unit trust managers. Most involve poor administration, such as failure to invest cash received by a firm within a reasonable period. Call 0171-796 3065.

Insurance Ombudsman: handles general insurance complaints, not those arising from life assurance or investment. This includes buildings and contents insurance, motor, travel, personal accident and loan protection insurance. Call 0845 600 6666.

Banking Ombudsman: deals with complaints against banks. Largest category, 19 per cent for 96/97, is related to mortgages, followed by lending and dormant accounts. Call 0171-404 9944.

Building Society Ombudsman: the largest category of complaints, some 28 per cent, relate to domestic mortgages. Call 0171-931 0044.

Their money was going for a song

THE FIXERS

RODDY KOHN

No one wants to believe they will become dependent on the state system

WINE, WOMEN (or men depending on your persuasion) and song. For most of Britain's thirty-something's this is what a lot of life is all about.

In Howard and Pru's case they certainly enjoy the good things in life. They have each other, at least two holidays abroad every year together, a wine cellar that Malcolm Gluck would die for and money in the bank – about 20 grand to be precise.

It was only because Howard's Dad kept nagging at them to come and see me that they found their way here at all. When they did they left with a shopping list of personal financial issues that the day before had been wrapped in blissful ignorance.

Neither of them had thought about the higher rates of tax their capital on deposit had been incurring unnecessarily.

We were able to establish that £15,000 of their money was not likely to be needed for the next five years. We therefore decided that this money could be invested in a general PEP in HSBC's clever capital secure International Tracker fund.

All this was with the intention of making their capital grow tax efficiently. By itself this could sound a little mundane but what it meant to Howard and Pru was not paying the tax on interest.

Over the next five years this could amount to a whopping £2,250 at current rates of interest. Howard felt this more meaningfully when we translated the benefit into an estimated 37 cases of some very pleasant wine (or about 15 cases of Chateauneuf du Pape).

With their interest levels having reached fever pitch I decided to explain the more (how shall I put this) cerebral aspects of good financial planning.

Despite plenty of spare income neither of them had investigated their respective employers' employee benefit structure. Naturally they had joined their respective companies' group personal pension schemes but they had not explored the possibility of topping up their contributions.

With the opportunity to receive as much as 40 pence in the pound tax relief on their investment, it clearly made sense to seize this opportunity. More mundane however was the talk of income protection. The company had made provision for its employees by providing protection for the first year.

After that they were on their own.

We all like to think that road traffic accidents only happen to other people, especially those of a debilitating nature, but for my money the fact that Howard and Pru often travelled to the same meetings together meant that the subject needed some serious consideration.

We were able to discuss the fact that – unlike many final salary occupational pension schemes – theirs did not provide an enhanced pension in the event of them suffering long-term illness.

Permanent health insurance would provide an income but only to a maximum of 75 per cent of salary including state benefits.

Even then, the money could not be used to pay pension premiums. Obviously there would be a need to investigate critical illness cover as well to include a total permanent disability clause.

Critical illness policies, I explained, provide a lump sum payment which in this instance we could use to repay the mortgage of £30,000 or be notionally earmarked as part of their retirement funds leaving them the income from the PHI policy for day to day living expenses.

At about £50 per month for both types of cover, the costs can soon outweigh the benefits.

Equally, no one wants to believe the event will actually happen that one day forces them to become dependent on the state system, which we all now know cannot afford us and no longer wants us.

After we got this depressing subject out of the way we could move on to an area infinitely more palatable – death and making a will.

"It almost makes you want to become a financial adviser," said Howard with a wry smile that left me in no doubt how much he and Pru must have been enjoying the meeting.

Roddy Kohn is principal of Kohn Cougar, independent financial advisers in Bristol (0117 9466384)

هكذا من الاصل

Yes, it could happen to you

Spending a little money now could save a great deal of trouble in the future. By **Tony Bonsignore** and **Tony Lyons**

AS WE celebrate the 50th birthday of the National Health Service, demand for medical care continues to increase inexorably. At the same time, we are also having to learn to rely less on the state to take care of us if we suffer from long-term illness or incapacity.

There are different types of insurance policies available to cover medical treatment, provide an income or lump sum if you suffer from illness or accident that prevents you from working for more than a few weeks, and to provide long-term care. Think of your weekly outgoings, mortgage, direct debits, loans, groceries, leisure activities and other assorted bills. And now think what would happen if your income was suddenly taken away from you because of long-term illness or an accident, and you were forced to live on a fraction of what you currently earn, perhaps as little as £50 a week.

Our natural response is that it could never happen to us. Unfortunately it can and often does. Last year, some 200,000 people were away from work for between six months and a year. More than 750,000 people were away from work for more than three years. The state does little to help. Incapacity Benefit starts at just £48.80 a week, rising to £64.70 after a year. And even this meagre amount is not easy to come by. The qualifying restrictions on the current benefit are far meaner than with its predecessor, Invalidity Benefit. To qualify now you must prove you are unable to do any occupation, not just the one you were doing before you fell ill.

For a few lucky souls, a small but growing band of employers provide automatic insurance for their employees to guard against the threat of long-term illness. Such policies are confusingly called Permanent Health Insurance (PHI).

A stand-alone PHI contract is also available either direct from an insurer or via a financial adviser. Nigel Bourke, an independent adviser in Stockton-on-Tees, says: "Such policies are important for anyone who relies on their earned income. Unless you are one of the privileged few who get good terms from their employer, you need to think about what happens if you get ill. How will you pay the bills?"

The simplest and most common PHI schemes involve paying a monthly premium to an insurer in return for a guarantee to pay you a large proportion of your earnings in the event you fall ill, typically 40 to 75 per cent of your earnings. The payments will continue until either you are well enough to return to work or you retire.

Beyond that, there are a number of different options to consider. The first is to choose how long you are prepared to wait after you fall ill before you start receiving your money. This "waiting period" can be anywhere between 4 and 52 weeks, and this has a big bearing on the price of the premiums. The period chosen should depend upon what other provisions have been made, such as an employer scheme, savings or other insurance. The price and availability of PHI is also dependent on a number of personal factors such as age, sex, job and lifestyle.

> *We think it won't happen to us. It did happen to 200,000 people last year*

Another key factor is how PHI fits in with other insurance, particularly critical illness cover, which pays out a lump sum in the event that you are struck down with a specified serious illness. Many insurers and financial advisers suggest a mix between the two.

The biggest obstacle to getting cover, however, remains one of perception. If you are lucky you will never need to claim on a policy, and you will be paying out money you will never see again. Of course, there is the very real chance you could be one of the unlucky ones.

Tony Bonsignore writes for "Financial Adviser"

Keep your income healthy

The last thing you need on top of a serious illness is to be worried about making ends meet. But how badly will your income be hit? And how can you protect against fate? By **Abigail Montrose**

A SERIOUS illness can severely affect your finances as well as your health. You may have to give up work or take a lower paid job which could affect your family and lifestyle. One way to protect yourself against this is to take out critical illness insurance which pays out a lump sum if you are diagnosed as suffering from one of a number of life-threatening illnesses.

This may seem unnecessary but the statistics say otherwise. Every day more than 400 people have a heart attack, of whom over half survive for more than a year, while during the year 120,000 suffer from a stroke and 250,000 develop cancer.

Young and old are affected. The average age of a critical illness claimant is 42, which means a lot of people in their thirties are claiming as well as older people.

This insurance is just as important for people with no dependents as for those with children. If you have no partner bringing in an income, the financial hardship of a serious illness can be severe.

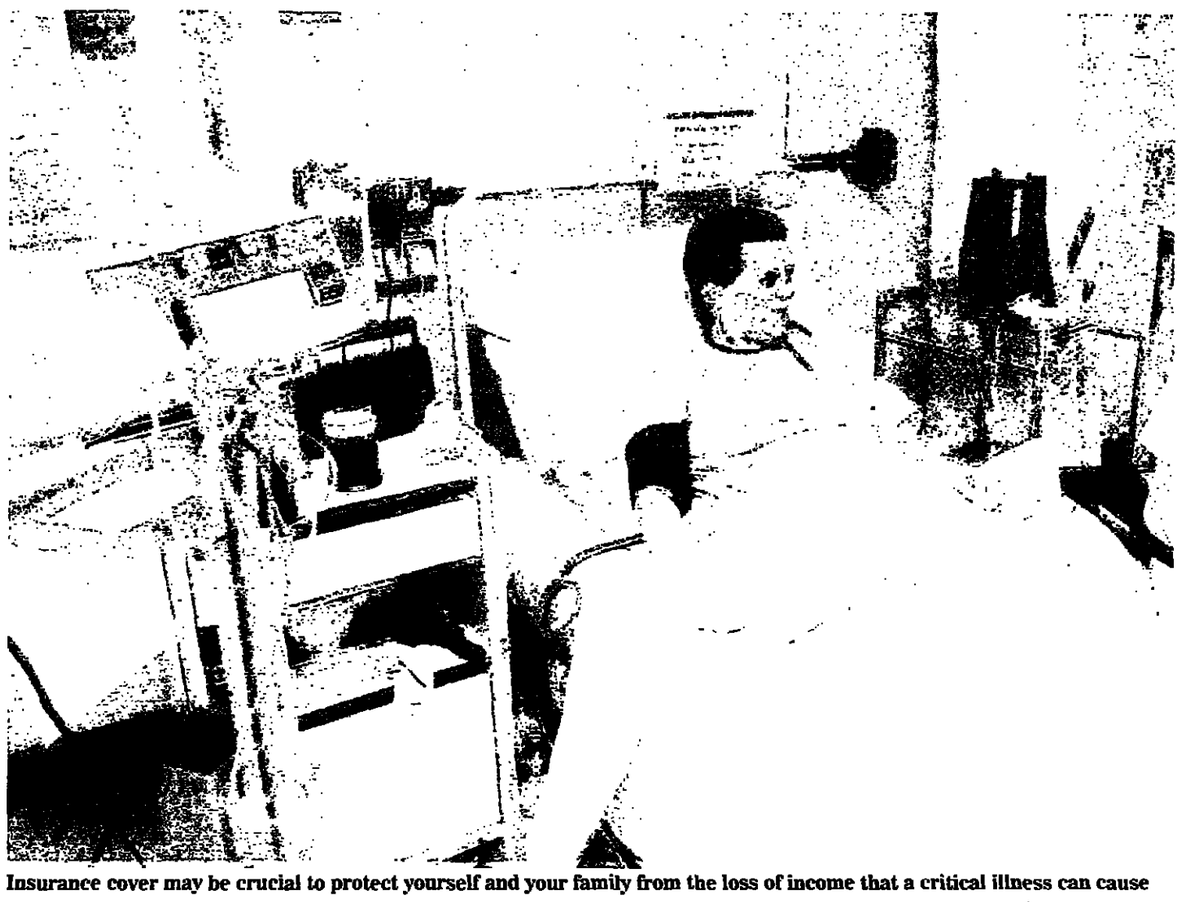
"In fact, critical illness is one of the most important insurances for people on their own," says Martha Catterall a director at financial advisers City Independent. "It is more important than life cover for single people with no financial dependents. It typically costs about one-and-a-half times as much as life cover. But the reason for this is that you are in fact far more likely to suffer from a critical illness than to die before you retire," she says.

Virtually all critical illness insurance policies cover the six core conditions of heart attack, coronary bypass surgery, stroke, cancer, kidney failure and major organ transplants. Between them, these account for 90 per cent of all claims.

Apart from these conditions, the illnesses covered vary between policies. For example, some cover more than 30 specified illnesses. But just because one policy has more illnesses listed than another, does not necessarily mean it is a better contract. More important is the insurer's definitions of conditions, as often one definition may cover several illnesses.

One of the most important is for there to be total and permanent disability (TPD). This should mean you can claim if you are unable to work because of permanent disability following any serious illness or injury. The best type of TPD cover is for "own occupation" rather than any occupation. This means the policy pays up if you are unable to do your job rather than any work.

"The basic idea behind TPD is that if you get a condition not specified in the policy but which permanently stops you from earning, you will be able to claim under the TPD clause," says Peter Telford of Legal & General. To be able to claim, you must not only be unable to work, you must have no realistic prospect of recovery. So if you claim for a broken leg, you are more than likely to be turned down.



Insurance cover may be crucial to protect yourself and your family from the loss of income that a critical illness can cause

Premiums vary between providers and are generally based on your age, sex, medical history, job and leisure activities – if either of these is hazardous either expect to pay more for cover.

You can buy critical illness cover either for a set period of time or on a whole of life basis. At Legal & General, for example, a 34-year-old non-smoking male would pay £33.38 a month for £100,000 of cover for 25 years. If the contract was on a whole of life basis so that the man could keep the cover indefinitely, the premiums would be £57.61. If a smoker, the premiums would be around 40 per cent more. The cost of critical illness cover tends to be a couple of pounds lower for women.

A cheaper way is to add it on to another policy. For example, you may have a life assurance policy running alongside your mortgage, so that in the event of your death, your dependents will receive a lump sum which they can use to pay off the mortgage. If our hypothetical 34-year-old was to add critical illness insurance onto this policy, instead of paying £33.38 a month for £100,000 of cover for 25 years, he would pay £29.50.

But there is a down side to having life cover and critical illness cover on one policy. "If you are getting life cover for a loan like a mortgage, having a critical illness rider with life cover makes sense because the loan only has to be paid off once. But if you are buying critical illness to safeguard your family and lifestyle then you should think about having separate policies," says Peter Telford. "That way if you get sick you still have life cover when you most need it."

Mr Telford points out that if you suffer a critical illness you will find it almost impossible to take out any new life insurance and if you do manage to, it will be very expensive. If you already have a separate life assurance policy in place, you will not have this problem.

Critical illness insurance policies vary enormously in terms of cover and premiums. An independent financial adviser will be able to help you find the best policy for your needs.

The policy behind PMI

Finding the right private medical insurance is vital. By **David Prosser**

THE FINAL days of June marked two health-related anniversaries. First, the National Health Service celebrated its 50th birthday. Then, being just one year after Gordon Brown's first Budget, the last few people over 60 still entitled to tax relief on private medical insurance (PMI) premiums lost this valuable tax break.

This coincidence was rather unfortunate. The cash-starved NHS is struggling to cope with the massive demand for its services. PMI covers policyholders for many non-emergency medical conditions, enabling them to by-pass hospital waiting lists, choose particular hospitals or consultants and to enjoy superior hospital accommodation.

Unfortunately, PMI is expensive, particularly if you want anything more than the most basic level of cover. John Neville of PPP Healthcare says: "What you pay for is what you get and that's as true of PMI as anything else". PPP's mid-market policy, for example, would cost a 25-year-old £51.44 a month. If you're 55, you'd pay monthly premiums of £87.37 for the same policy.

Finding the right PMI policy can be tricky. Last month, John Bridgeman, director-general of the Office of Fair Trading, slated medical insurers for packing PMI policies with confusing jargon and unfair opt-out clauses.

While insurers are most often called upon to pay for non-urgent surgical treatment, there are increasing numbers of claims for more serious conditions such as heart disease, kidney problems, cancer and even psychiatric treatment and some plastic surgery.

Some policies are more comprehensive than others. Top-of-the-range will cover you for dental treatment, maternity-related conditions, alternative medicine and sometimes even opticians' fees. Budget plans offer good value cover but may include some irritating exclusions such as not paying for outpatient treatment.

There are various ways to cut the cost of PMI. Many insurers offer substantial discounts to people prepared to pay policy excesses. At BUPA, by far the largest PMI specialist, a 40-year-old would pay £50.87 a month for comprehensive cover. But if you were prepared to pay the first £500 of any medical bills, the monthly premium would fall to £27.47. Another way to keep premiums low is to agree that you'll only be treated in hospitals from a pre-specified list.

Buying PMI on a family basis can also work out cheaper. Prime Health's family policies, for example, cover all the children in the family, no matter how many there are. A couple, both aged 30, would pay £79.93 a month for family cover with Prime Health.

If you're at all unsure about which PMI policy is most suitable for you, talk to an insurance broker or an independent financial adviser. The OFT wants insurers to produce standard templates for insurance, so that policies are much more easily comparable. But this is still some way off.

One PMI controversy that insurers refuse to be moved on is the so-called moratoria approach to insurance. This allows you to obtain PMI without making any medical declarations or undergoing any examinations, as long as you agree that the policy won't cover you for any pre-existing conditions for a specified period, typically two years.

Many policyholders haven't understood this trap and have found themselves unable to claim on their insurance.

David Prosser is features editor of Investors Chronicle

The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants is growing fast, no longer overshadowed by grander bodies. By **Roger Trapp**

The little brother makes good

Rui Xavier

Peter Layhe, Cima's new president, exudes a quiet confidence in the virtues of the organisation

Peter Layhe, the new president of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, is far too tactful and charming to be critical outright. Nevertheless he gives the impression of believing firmly that his organisation is superior, in many areas, to the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, the much grander body with which a couple of years ago the management accountants were planning to merge.

Take his own position. Though he clearly has objectives for his year in office, he is at pains to point out that the body has long had a policy of building continuity through involving the vice-presidents in the development of strategy. Consequently, much of what he will be – in his own phrase – "putting to bed" was initiated or developed under his predecessor, Norman Lyle. Moreover, Mr Layhe's own vice-presidents, long-serving Kodak manager David Melvill and former head of consultancy at KPMG Michael Jeans, will be involved in the ideas that will be set out over the coming 12 months.

At the English institute, by contrast, it is only now that the current president Chris Swinson, along with future presidents Dame Sheila Masters and Graham Ward, have set out to have a common strategy for the next three years.

And then there is regulation. Close followers of accountancy politics will recall how, at an infamous press conference, Cima apparently did its best to derail Mr Swinson's cherished plan for reforming this tricky area without giving it up to an independent body. Just when Mr Swinson thought he had squared the circle, up popped the management accountants' representative to announce grave reservations.

Though the row simmered under Mr Lyle's presidency of Cima, Mr Layhe says that the differences have been buried to the extent that, if the Department of Trade and Industry approves the Swinson proposals, he and his organisation will go along with them.

But that does not mean that he cannot see problems. His own view is that disciplinary matters should be put under the aegis of the Financial Reporting Council, which also has under its wing the Accounting Standards Board and its enforcer, the Financial Reporting Review Panel. For now, he has not been successful in putting forward that argument, but he points out that there might be a change of mind when arrangements are reviewed in a few years time.

Cima has gone from strength to strength since that proposed merger failed to win the backing of chartered accountants who were reluctant to share their hard-won credentials. In survey after survey, as Mr Layhe points out, it has appeared as the preferred qualification, while the English institute has sought to update itself to deal with the modern world.

"Employers find it relevant," he says simply; and as a lifelong accountant in industries ranging from coal to textiles, Mr Layhe knows first-hand the value of the management accountant.

But, in keeping with his professional calling, he can draw on statistics to make his point. Cima now covers 110,000 accountants around the world, more than 60,000 of whom are students. Furthermore, in the first quarter of this year, the student intake was up 25 per cent on a year ago. "It seems to us that this is a measure of the confidence that students have in the value of our qualification. And that in turn reflects the value that employers put on the qualification."

At the same time, he stresses that the organisation is "financially strong, very robust".

But while he believes that the organisation has a great deal of momentum, he does not think that the situation whereby there are six accounting bodies can last for ever. Though it is in the interests of each to stress the differences between their qualifications, in fact they have a great deal in common, he says.

Taking the view that "if you were starting with a blank piece of paper, you would not start from here", he accordingly advocates a move towards consolidation based around education and training. Accountants share certain core skills – rather like doctors, he says. So why should an accountant intent on doing one part of the job go through all kinds of other training first, when general medical practitioners do not qualify as, say, heart surgeons before moving into their chosen field.

But Mr Layhe's preferred way of dealing with the multiplicity of qualifications is unlikely to go down well with the English institute.

It is those in the regulated areas – insolvency practitioners and auditors, but mainly the latter – that have created the public disquiet about accountants at large, he says, pointing out that when people refer to accountants they tend to mean auditors. All the major scandals associated with the last recession – Polly Peck, Maxwell and the rest – came out of the regulated side of the profession, which he says amounts to 25 per cent of the total.

Consequently, he can see a case for dividing the profession in two, between those accountants doing work that is subject to government regulation and those, like most of his members, doing work that is supportive of management and not subject to regulations.

Put that way, you can understand the organisation's reluctance to get too closely involved with the plans for reform of this area and its relief to not be part of the English institute.

No wonder the semi-retired Mr Layhe has such a cheerful demeanour.

Banks fear loophole in data bill

Legislation could leave financial groups powerless in their fight against fraud. By **Grania Langdon-Down**

Bank fraud costs millions every year. New legislation could make detecting it much harder

A GAP in new data protection legislation has put the role banks, insurers, credit organisations and finance companies play in helping prevent and detect fraud in jeopardy.

The British Bankers' Association, the Association of British Insurers, the CBI and the police are all pressing the government to plug the gap so they can continue processing sensitive information for crime prevention purposes.

The Data Protection Bill, which has to be in force by October 24 to meet the requirements of the European Commission's Data Protection Directive, is currently working its way through parliament. The bill extends the rights of individuals to access personal data held on them and puts a greater onus on organisations to obtain prior consent before they process any information.

However, a close study of the bill found that, while data processed for the prevention or detection of crime was protected by non-disclosure provisions and could not be accessed by the individual involved, there was no basis for the information being held in the first place.

Joanna Elson, director of the BBA, which has 329 members, said the police relied heavily on banks to gather evidence in fraud cases.

Warning notices were circulated between banks and the police, while banks also needed to hold relevant information on individual's criminal records to ensure he or she was not re-employed. Elson said:

"The public rely on banks to ensure that the banking system is safe and crime-free and that customers are protected from people with criminal intentions.

"This means that banks need to process data which is collected in investigations and which may form part of the evidence in a possible future court or disciplinary case.

"Clause 28 of the bill sensibly recognises that data which is processed for the prevention of crime should be exempt from subject access where this could prejudice that work. However, sensitive data held for crime and fraud prevention purposes will not be able to be processed in the first place because it does not meet any of the criteria for processing sensitive data as set out in the bill."

She said one high profile example of the vital role banks played in helping prevent crime was the Heinz baby food poisoner, who was extorting thousands of pounds from supermarkets which he collected via a network of some 20 bogus Halifax card accounts, held in a variety of false names. Halifax collected the information and worked with the police to slow down the processing of his transactions at certain cash points being watched by the police.

"If the bank had not been able to process their suspicions about these accounts, this investigation would not have been possible," Elson said.

In another case, six people, claiming to be students, used fake identification to open accounts at banks around the country and accumulate cheque books and plastic cards. At one bank, staff spotted that two of the customers had used a common address and became suspicious.

Account opening data was checked and links between the six people were established – more than one bank being involved. With the cooperation of the banks, the police mounted a surveillance operation of their spending trips before arresting them and recovering some of the goods.

"The banks and stores had been defrauded of more than £500,000. Without the exchange of sensitive data between banks and other institutions, and the holding of this kind of information for many months, the police would not have been able to make important arrests and the losses would have been very much worse," Elson said.

The ABI said it was very important that insurers were able to continue sharing information in certain circumstances to prevent fraudulent claims, which were estimated last year to amount to £10.2m.

Safeguards were already in place in the ABI's code of practice which recognised such data had to be handled carefully.

Elson said they had suggested that an order could be drafted once the bill had received royal assent later this month, which would establish that the prevention or detection of crime and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders were relevant conditions for processing sensitive personal data.

There would still be safeguards to protect individual rights. For instance, banks would have to prove that overriding the rights and freedoms of the individual concerned was in the public interest.

"We have good grounds for hope after two ministers said on the record that they are 'listening sympathetically' to our plea for an order," she said.

Geoff Moon, Parliamentary Secretary to the Lord Chancellor's Department, has made it clear the Government takes a sympathetic view of the problems. He said the difficulty with amending the bill itself lay in the risk that it could permit processing which was not consistent with the European Directive and so undermine protections offered elsewhere in the bill.

He believed drafting a specific order would give the government the flexibility to specify the circumstances in which the processing could be carried out.

It also meant the government could consult with the relevant organisations to produce a "satisfying result" without risking undermining the bill, he said.

Stripping away the asset exaggeration

The Accounting Standards Board new ruling makes it harder for companies to cover up long-term problems. By **Roger Trapp**

COMPANIES WILL be required to be more rigorous about how they account for their assets following the publication of the Accounting Standards Board's latest standard.

Financial Reporting Standard 11, "Impairment of Fixed Assets and Goodwill", which comes into force for financial periods ending on or after 23 December 1998, is particularly designed to catch those companies that try to present a drop in the value of their assets as a temporary occurrence that will soon be followed by a recovery.

Sir David Tweedie, chairman of the ASB, said: "It will no longer be possible to pretend that long-standing losses with no realistic hope of recovery are only temporary."

He acknowledged the hostility his approach had received from businesses keen to demonstrate "smooth" improvements in performance while being subject to cycles in the property market, for instance. But he insisted that what he calls an attack on "scoundrel accounting" was consistent with his policy of introducing complete transparency and consistency to accounting. "It will introduce a welcome note of reality in the valuation of fixed assets," he said.

He also welcomed the fact that the approach, which had been open to consultation for several months, had largely been adopted by the International Accounting Standards Committee.

The standard is a follow-on to last December's FRS 10, which set out how goodwill and intangible assets could be carried in the balance sheet without being amortised, or gradually reduced in value, so long as they were subjected to annual impairment checks. "Companies with goodwill and intangible assets with indefinite lives now have the equipment they need to perform impairment reviews instead of charging arbitrary amounts of depreciation against the profit and loss account," said Sir David.

Auditors are broadly enthusiastic about the greater certainty introduced by the standard. Ted Awty, head of audit at KPMG, said: "Some standardisation of approach in a very judgemental area is welcome – provided it does not become too mechanistic."

He pointed out that, despite tests looking as if they might be subjective and complicated, many companies would be unaffected by the changes on the grounds that it was only necessary to go through the process if impairment was suspected.

Martin Scicluna, chairman of Deloitte & Touche, added that his firm supported the concept of "long-term capitalisation of goodwill justified by rigorous impairment reviews" and welcomed the move.

However, the approach came under fire from the branding consultancy Interbrand Newell and Sorrell. Raymond Perrier, worldwide director of brand valuation, said that it denied shareholders full information by excluding the value generated organically. "The new standard from the Accounting Standards Board does not give shareholders anywhere near the amount of information they need to value their ownership. While acquired intangibles are currently valued on the balance sheet at the time of acquisition, there is still no move to include the value added by good brand management," he added.

هكذا من الاصل

THE TRADER

LYNNE HAS arranged to meet me in The Cat and Coleslaw. It is one of those strange City pubs that has recently been restored by having its tired old fittings torn out and replaced by tired new fittings: more done over than done up. Consequently, any character it may have acquired over the years has vanished completely in a frenzy of fake wood, brass and substandard light fittings. The perfect venue, then, for a top secret meeting with your headhunter.

I have never actually met Lynne before, so I have no idea what she looks like. Her own description of herself – "blonde bob, blue suit" – is so general it could apply to almost any City woman, and I am a tad nervous that I will be unable to track her down. I need not have worried. As soon as I walk into the Cat, I can see a small, fair-haired woman in the farthest corner of the bar trying terribly hard to be inconspicuous. What she seems not to have realised is that she is the only person in there who is trying to be inconspicuous, which makes her stand out a mile. Indeed, she may as well have "headhunter" tattooed across her forehead.

Anyway, I march up to her and introduce myself, and when she asks me how I worked out who she was I lie and say something about sixth sense, and she laughs and asks me my star sign. Oh great, I think, astrological small talk; just what I need after a day in the markets. But she seems to want to know, so I tell her and she starts telling me what I am like. It is a bit of a cheek on her part, given that after 25 years of being me I could not tell you what I am like myself. On the other hand, I do not like to interrupt.

After all, for all I know, the mystery company could have moved on from handwriting analysis to astrology as its means of staff assessment.

So I put up with about 30 minutes of this, trying not to think about what I could be doing instead, and eventually we turn to the matter in hand: the well-paid position in the terribly prestigious organisation that would suit me down to the ground. Except that it wouldn't.

Lynne has one thing right. It is an extremely generous salary on offer. It would have to be, since no one in their right mind would work for an organisation like, well, let us just call it Megalomaniac plc. No one has survived the in-house trading room for more than three months before storming out or having a nervous breakdown. What exactly makes Lynne think I will do any better? Well, she says, everyone I have ever spoken to says how charming you are, and how diplomatic and good at defusing tense situations. "I just thought..." she mumbles sadly, watching her commission slide away from her.

We are just leaving the pub when we bump into Rory, of all people, and I have to introduce Lynne to him as "Er, a friend of mine", which does not fool him for a second. He glowers at me in a slightly hurt way and strides off into the smoky gloom.

But the next day, Rory seems to have forgotten about our little encounter, and there is no more mention of talks. Anyway, Rory is on the phone most of the day, or in meetings, so we hardly see anything of him.

It is two days later that the letter plops on to my desk. "In recognition of your outstanding performance over the past few months, it has been decided to increase your salary to..."

Housing may lose out to new jobs campaign

Government plans to shake up the funding of local councils could threaten plans to build and repair homes. By Paul Gosling

Experts estimate that as much as £20bn is already needed to bring the public housing stock up to good condition

Housing professionals fear that when the Chancellor announces the results of the Comprehensive Spending Review in the next few days, one result will be that billions of pounds held by councils to spend on housing will instead go on "New Deal" employment projects. While local authorities favour greater flexibility in the use of the capital receipts from "right-to-buy" sales, allowing them to spend them on regeneration and job creation schemes, housing managers argue that the money is needed to renovate and build homes.

John Perry, acting chief executive of the Chartered Institute of Housing, says that there is "consternation" at proposals published in a recent consultation paper to integrate local authorities' Housing Investment Programmes into the rest of their capital budgets. The idea, he says, is "a really nasty one".

The result could be that much of the £5bn of housing capital receipts held by councils would go on non-housing regeneration and employment projects. John Perry argues that this is particularly true in shire districts, where currently 70 to 80 per cent of capital expenditure is on housing.

"There is a good case for a single pot, but not if you start with such a massive backlog of repairs," says Mr Perry. The institute calculates that £18bn to £20bn is urgently needed to bring the public housing stock up to good condition. It adds that experience of the Single Regeneration Budget clearly shows a diversion away from spending on housing to employment-generating activities whenever capital budgets are merged. Mr Perry hopes that when the results of the Comprehensive Spending Review are published, proposals for a single pot will have been dropped, or at least modified.

But a spokesman for the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions said that, while he could not indicate the outcome of the consultation, he could confirm that guidelines on the implementation of the "single pot" would be published shortly after the announcement of the results of the Comprehensive Spending Review.

Housing associations are also worried, believing that they will see less in the way of grants from councils' capital budgets. Aaron Cahill, policy officer for the National Housing Federation, which represents housing associations, says that the Government must not overlook the fact that it is as important to maintain existing social housing stock as it is to build new properties.

"Housing need has to be objectively assessed in terms of local housing demand," says Mr Cahill. "People are concerned about numbers, but there is a considerable quantity of public housing which is in appalling condition, and requires enormous amounts of money spending on it."

The Association of London Government says it has "reservations" about creating a single pot, but recognises the benefits of giving councils more powers to decide spending priorities for themselves. The much larger Local Government Association, however, welcomes the idea.

"Our line has been that we want the restrictions on the use of capital receipts removed," says Keith Beaumont, the LGA's head of capital.

The association also supports the Government's stated intention to release £250m a year from existing capital receipts for extra spending – but opposes the suggestion that this should be deducted from the amount councils can borrow for capital spending, thereby nullifying the effect on capital works.

Steve Wilcox, a housing researcher based at York University, says that, essentially, the Government's proposals merely confirm current practice: "What tends to happen is that some housing money is spent on other services, rather than other services' receipts being spent on housing," he observes. In many instances, capital receipts from housing sales are used for new leisure centres or town hall extensions.

> *"There is a considerable quantity of public housing which is in appalling condition and requires enormous amounts of money spending on it"*

What is more, says Mr Wilcox, some local authorities are using their capital budgets to, in effect, provide a subsidy to their general fund from their housing revenue account, which is theoretically ring-fenced to be run as a self-financing business.

The result is that rents go up to keep the council tax artificially low. In areas where all or most tenants are on housing benefit, it becomes the Department of Social Security that provides additional financial support to a council. One way to create this subsidy is by requiring tenants to pay contributions towards the capital costs of renovations, when these were paid for out of grants received by the council.

One housing director explained how a council might provide another hidden subsidy. From their housing investment programme, a capital allocation can be made to a local housing association. The authority is then reimbursed this grant from the Housing Corporation, but it is no longer legally allowed to spend it on capital projects, having lost its credit approval from the Government. The net result is that the sum of money is transferred from the housing capital budget into the council's general revenue fund.

Housing consultant, Graham Moody, says that "at the margins" there are other examples of housing rents being used to subsidise the council tax. Local authorities' finance officers have a certain amount of discretion on when to allocate debt management charges to the housing rent account, and when to allocate them to the general fund.

There is also some flexibility in charging the cost of wardens in sheltered accommodation against either the housing revenue account or the social services' budget within the general fund. John Perry, of the Chartered Institute of Housing, adds: "Some councils still pay out of the housing revenue account for things that, in other parts of the city, would come out of the general fund."

These include some of the housing estates' cleaning costs, and employment projects targeted at a particular group of tenants. "This reflects the tight pressures placed on the general fund from capping in recent years," says Mr Perry.

The approach to capital budgets preferred by both the institute and the Association of London Government would be a retention of the Housing Investment Programme as a separate capital budget, which is approved by Government on the basis of a three-year rolling programme.

Only a strategic plan like this, they believe, will make worthwhile inroads into reversing the serious decline of public housing.

UPDATE

NEVILLE RUSSELL, the 14th largest UK firm of accountants, is to merge with Mazars & Guerard, France's sixth largest firm, in a bid to create a "pan-European mid-tier professional services partnership of substance". The merger organisation will have 275 partners and 3,500 staff in 26 countries around the world, though the largest concentration will be in Europe.

WASTEFUL COST overruns such as those associated with the building of the British Library could be a thing of the past, say the Institute of Actuaries and the Institution of Civil Engineers, if firms adopt the risk analysis set out in their joint publication, The RAMP Handbook. The RAMP (Risk Analysis and Management of Projects) method has been devised by the two organisations as a framework for dealing with not just construction projects but all kinds of risks and uncertainty, such as those associated with the introduction of the euro.

THE ROLE of the internal audit is perceived to be a combination of consultant/adviser and policeman, with the consultant role likely to expand further, according to a survey of the field conducted by Arthur Andersen. The report, *Creating a best practice internal audit function*, also found that managing business risk was fast becoming the auditor's principal objective.

JERSEY HAS set up an independent statutory body, the Jersey Financial Services Commission, to take on responsibility for all regulation, supervision, development and promotion of the Channel Island's financial services industry. Though Jersey has enjoyed a solid reputation for the way in which its financial services industry is conducted, the move follows recent concerns about offshore activities.

KPMG SAYS that the strong demand for its services across its practice has led to the appointment of a record 53 new partners. The firm, which will have 633 partners with effect from 1 October, has also appointed a total of 52 directors. A third of the new partners come from management consulting, which has seen an unprecedented 46 per cent increase in fee income of the first six months of this financial year, says the firm.

THE LEGAL issues relating to the introduction of the euro from 1 January 1999 are the subject of a guide that has just been published by the Institute of Chartered Accountants. The guide's author, Geoffrey Yeowart of solicitors Lovell White Durrant, says that it is particularly important for companies to review any contracts that will continue beyond the euro's starting date in order to identify whether any changes are necessary.

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INTERNATIONAL BANK

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INTERNATIONAL BANK

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It's not just our emotions that are suffering from the unseasonable temperatures and cloudy skies. It's our jobs. By **Katie Hilpern**

Making heavy weather of work

Mention Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) and the first image that springs to mind is winter. Dark December days causing fatigue and depression, right? Wrong. According to the SAD Association, recent British weather has been so gloomy that many sufferers are being tormented right now. And since everyone's mood is influenced by sunlight to some degree, the rest of us are also likely to be experiencing symptoms of the summertime blues. And experts believe it's our work that is being affected most severely of all.

"Research shows that when the sun is shining, people are more credulous, give bigger tips, make more sales and are generally more successful in business," explains Dr Lance Workman, a biological psychologist at the University of Glamorgan. "But when it is dreary – as it has been lately – the opposite tends to happen.

"What people seem to forget is that parts of Britain are further north than some parts of Alaska," he continues. "So it should not be surprising that our summers aren't always great, or indeed that the number of people suffering from varying degrees of SAD is far higher than in other countries. I have found that as many as 11 per cent of women and five per cent of men have a big problem with it."

For those unaffected by SAD, the possibility of the weather hampering one's job prospects – particularly in summer – may seem a little far-fetched. "Many [SAD] sufferers start out enthusiastically in springtime," maintains Nick Martin, research nurse at Southampton University. "But by November they are so depressed they simply can't cope anymore." And if dark days set in earlier than they should, that breaking point can come much sooner, sometimes even in July or August.

However, there is a good chance that the lack of sunshine may be causing even you to be more hostile than usual to clients and colleagues, and less productive overall. Find yourself swearing blindly at your desk neighbour for borrowing your World Cup mug? Bridget Hogg, a chartered occupational psychologist, explains: "Feeling down and tired in the office is expressed differently according to the individual, but generally people become introverted – they won't have much to contribute at meetings, their desk work will suffer because they lose confidence and interest, and they will become less sociable."

According to experts, women are hit the hardest. SAD affects four times as many women as men, usually between the ages of 20 and 40. Alison Hedd, 39, knows this all too well. "I was an excellent PA until five years ago. But that winter, I felt ghastly. I couldn't understand it because I loved my job and was happy in a relationship. But the depression just got worse until I was so bad-tempered that my work really suffered. I was rude to clients – not to mention by boss – and I never seemed to have the energy to do any work. I used to want to fall asleep in every meeting. It was only when I discovered the benefits of having artificial daylight from a light box that my life started to go back to normal again. I have never had to use it in the summertime before but this month, I think I may. The symptoms are already creeping back."

George Michaelides, of the media company Michaelides and Bednash, has found another solution. "When we started out, one of our biggest priorities was to design an office that allowed maximum daylight – which would brighten up the working environment even in winter and in weather like we're having at the moment. What we've wound up with is a huge, pine-floored room with one shared table at its centre where all employees are entirely surrounded by big windows." Michaelides is in little doubt as to the advantages of a bright, airy office. "Why do you think bosses of traditional companies always make sure they get a corner office where there are two windows rather than one?"

Most organisations, however, are not quite as considerate. The SAD Association claims that since the majority of British GPs are unsympathetic to weather-influenced disorders, we have got a long way to go before convincing employers. Meanwhile, sitting in a cramped open-plan office in which there are more partitions than windows remains the murky reality for many of us. Even the most modern offices tend to block out sunlight with darkened glass.

"Since we spend more hours in work than any other country in Europe, this is not a problem that should be underestimated," stresses Hogg.

And if you think you've escaped Seasonal Affective Disorder, there's another temporal affliction waiting to strike you down: Sundown Syndrome. This year-round condition means that whatever the weather, you may become increasingly agitated and confused in the late afternoon. Dr Ian Rodin, a lecturer in psychiatry at Southampton University, says: "It's well known that the time of day can affect how people feel. Our body has daily biorhythms and their patterns are partly dictated by when the sun rises and sets." So the next overcast day you find yourself shouting at a colleague for chatting too loudly as the afternoon wears on or feel a power-nap coming on at 4pm, count yourself unlucky – you could be coming down with a nasty bout of SAD and a dose of SS to boot.

Through the glass brightly: George Michaelides's priority was to design an office that allowed maximum daylight *Neville Elder*

I dread to think how I'll feel by autumn

Maureen Ali, 50, is a documentary film producer and SAD sufferer:

Last winter wasn't too bad for sufferers of SAD – there have been worse winters. But this summer seems to have made up for it. It has really got me down, especially at work where I feel incredibly stressed.

I keep telling colleagues that if only I could enjoy some warm, sunny weather – like we should be having at this time of year – at the weekends, I wouldn't feel so bad when I come back to work in my basement office on a Monday morning. Even my evenings at home are ruined because I walk out of work into what should be a glorious, revitalizing afternoon, but since it is so gloomy, I wind up carrying my stress home with me.

If the weather does not improve, I dread to think how I will feel by the autumn. Even Easter was terrible. It was so dismal that I found myself staying in bed until 2pm, which is totally unheard of for me in usual circum-stances. In fact, I've made sure that I'm going to the south of France on the August bank holiday weekend.

That way, I know for sure I will get some sunny weather before the winter sets in, which is the only way that I think I will cope.

Caitlyn McCarthy(right) looks over some images for use in 'Red', all part of her job as PA to editor, Kathryn Brown (left) *Philip Meech*

Job with a red-hot future

I WORK FOR

CAITLYN MCCARTHY IS PA TO KATHRYN BROWN, EDITOR OF WOMEN'S MAGAZINE, 'RED'

HAVING COMPLETED a Masters degree in English, I got a temping job at *Total Sport* working for Danny Kelly, then the magazine's editor. I was rather inappropriate for the job because I wasn't interested in sport, whereas my colleagues would dissolve into floods of tears whenever there was a major loss for England.

It was daunting being the only female in the office and my tea-making skills began to get a little over-used. But I had a rapport with Danny, who loved the fact that I was the most qualified member of staff on the magazine. He even used to joke that I was secretly doing a PhD on male chauvinism.

Kath worked for Emap Elan, the sister company to Emap Metro, *Total Sport*'s publishers, and we got on like a house on fire. Both being redheads from Essex, we look and sound similar – even Kath's boyfriend mistakes our voices on the phone.

When Kath was made editor of *Red*, I wrote asking if I could work for her, and she replied, "When can you start?"

Coming from rowdy men's magazines, I was surprised by how beautiful and glamorous the women at *Red*, *Elle* and *New Woman* were, and I immediately changed my dress code to keep up. But the fashion world still seemed quite alien to me because I've always been a bit of a tomboy.

It was bizarre to work on a launch because everything was top secret; the magazine was even given the code name "Project Miriam". All I knew was that it would be an intelligent magazine celebrating women in their "middle youth". My friends nagged me senseless for information about the magazine, but I told them little except that it was designed for people like us. They now read and love it.

During my first months, I did a bit of everything, including ordering all the furniture, but as the staff moved in I became more concentrated on Kath's work. She is meticulous, and never flaps except when it comes to IT. When she was asked to swap her Mac for a PC she was nearly in tears, and was the only person allowed to keep her old computer.

My first major task for her was to organise a weekend conference for the 35 newly appointed staff. Kath got horrendously drunk the first night and I got plastered on the second.

Everything seemed to be going smoothly until, the following day, a presentation was interrupted when water flooded through the ceiling on to the table. I began to despair, because it seemed that Kath's efforts to present the image of a slick magazine were being sabotaged by scenes from *Fawlty Towers*.

The launch day was incredibly special. The office was bursting with flowers sent by people who loved the look of the magazine; we even had a bunch from Donatella Versace.

I had always been convinced that we would succeed, but I still got a real buzz from seeing *Red* appear on the shelf and knowing how much work had gone in to producing it.

I really appreciate working for a female boss. Unlike a lot of male bosses, Kath doesn't need me by her side all the time and has never asked me to do things that go beyond my job description. But she knows that I have writing ambitions and agreed from the outset that it would be strange if I was planning on remaining as just her assistant for much longer than a couple of years.

When I asked her if I could write something for the magazine, I was immediately given a monthly shopping news page and a number of film reviews to write, which illustrates how true to her word Kath is. At first I began writing in an academic style, but the Associate Editor kindly showed me how to jazz up my copy to make it less stuffy. But I am still always surprised that others see my job as glamorous.

At least once a month we have a *Red* night out, which can turn into a messy all-nighter. The other day, when I remarked that England were playing their first match, Kath leapt up and said: "Of course! we've all got to go out and watch it." We all piled down to the pub, except for one of our male colleagues who doesn't like football.

In my spare time I do voluntary work for a Domestic Violence Intervention Project. Sometimes I find it very difficult to move from what seems like one extreme to another. The magazine world can seem a bit frivolous at times, yet *Red* remains refreshingly down to earth.

INTERVIEW BY KATIE SAMPSON

Knickers, phones and Mr Tom Jones

THE TEMP

TOM JONES has ruined my voice. I screamed so loudly at the Party in the Park on Sunday that something went clunk in my throat and now I can hardly talk. Besides, my concentration is shot to hell and all I can talk about is the fact that this Welsh grandad is God. There wasn't a dry seat (or patch of grass) in Hyde Park by the time he'd finished singing "Hard to Handle".

Given the state of my voice, it's almost inevitable that I should be working switchboard this week. Switchboard is my least favourite thing to do after filing, and when all you want to do is sit around going "...then he took his jacket off and whirled it around his head, and you won't believe what he did with his belt buckle...", five days answering the phone is as close to an eternity in purgatory as being forced to sit through an All Saints concert.

(If I hadn't been wearing jeans I would have whipped my knickers off there and then, and lobbed them straight at him.)

Especially when, as usual, no-one has bothered to fill you in on the company you're working for. According to my agency, they're a property developer called DezRez-U-Like Inc. I also gather – via a process of telling several dozen callers that they've got the wrong number – they're also into property management, flat letting, self-catering holidays, PR, house repossession lists, quantative research, a "dating agency", a vanity press, career management, legal advice (an 0891 number), ticket touting and, I'm sure, a couple of dozen other fields I've not identified as yet. Not bad for a company that only seems to have 30 employees. Turns out, after a few hours, that I was supposed to answer the phone with the words "Good morning, DezRez Group Inc". I'm sure I can't have lost that many clients for the ticket agency by informing them they are called DezRez-U-Like Inc.

(Tom Jones is older than my dad. So how come my dad's bum looks like two sacks of flour in a hammock when Tom Jones's looks like two footballs in a bra?)

And there's the perennial problem that no-one has updated the staff list in at least a year. I spend half my time putting people on hold (where, creepily enough, they have to listen to a revolving tape of "Jesus to a Child" and Björk's "Oh So Quiet") and running round the reception desk to ask the girl in cubicle one who the hell Mr Gzzadgj is. By the time I get back, they've usually hung up.

(My next boyfriend has to go "I think I'd better dance now" and revolve his hips through 360 degrees like Tom before I'll even consider a dry sherry in a public place).

Then there are the problem people who expect me to answer their questions there and then, and get into almighty strops when I don't know the answer. This includes things like "do you have any front row seats for the World Cup Final", "do the holiday flats have power showers", "does John want the Bauhaus book in Times New Roman or Sans Serif", and "what we should do when the police turn up about the handling charge".

(Has anyone had a heart attack at a Tom Jones concert?)

A man rang up for a date yesterday. It only ever seems to be men who ring the dating agency. Makes me wonder, but as a temp the best thing to do is keep your head down. The girl who runs the company was at lunch; I offered to take a message. "Well," he said, "what do you look like? Maybe we can do business and cut out the handling fee." "No thanks. I'm a switchboard operator, not a date." "Oh," he said. "No offence, love. It's just that gorgeous husky voice. I could listen to it all day".

(Does anyone have Tom Jones's phone number? I'll swap you all my old Elvis albums...)

صكنا من الاهل

NEW FILMS

SIX DAYS, SEVEN NIGHTS (12)
Director: Ivan Reitman
Starring: Harrison Ford, Anne Heche

Question: what happens to the action hero who is too old to leap from moving trains and cling to the landing gear of a 747? Answer: he reinvents himself as a romantic lead, rolling around with women half his age instead of alligators or ill-tempered Nazis. The latest actor to undergo this inelegant transformation is Harrison Ford.

An absurdly mechanical screenplay throws a boozy cargo pilot (Ford) together with a New York magazine editor (Anne Heche), who is holidaying in Makatea when she gets a call requesting her presence at a photo shoot in Tahiti. She ropes Ford into flying her there, but a thunderstorm forces them to crash-land on a remote island. The director, Ivan Reitman, has adopted an old-fashioned approach which relies on implausible contrivances, but this qualifies as gritty social realism compared with the moment when Ford and Heche laughably recreate the famous *From Here to Eternity* beach scene. *CW: Barbican Screen, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea*

LOVE AND DEATH ON LONG ISLAND (15)
Director: Richard Kwietniowski
Starring: John Hurt, Jason Priestley

A short way into *Love and Death on Long Island*, the film's reclusive widower, Giles De'Ath (John Hurt), wanders into what he believes is a screening of a new E M Forster adaptation. But he has bought the wrong ticket, and finds himself watching *Hotpants College 2*, a crass sex comedy. This error proves fortuitous, however, for it introduces him to one of the film's stars, Ronnie Bostock (Jason Priestley). A burgeoning obsession with this young actor in turn forces the old man to confront something which he has spent his life ignoring – the 20th century.

This warm, subtle comedy feels ephemeral at first, but gradually its emotional weight becomes apparent. Although it invites comparisons with *Death in Venice*, these are pegs on which the film hangs, rather than its underpinnings. What the movie is essentially concerned with is the tentative relationship between art and life, the watcher and the watched, and the writer-director Richard Kwietniowski takes great care in tracing the areas where each overlaps with the other. *CW: Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Clapham Picture House, Gate Notting Hill, Renoir, Richmond Filmhouse, Rio Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Hill, Virgin Haymarket*

GREASE (20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION) (PG)
Director: Randal Kleiser
Starring: John Travolta, Olivia Newton-John

I didn't warm to the garish musical *Grease* the first time around – the general consensus at school was that it was girls' stuff. But one thing which it has in its favour, 20 years on, is that it hasn't dated: its 1950s setting has pickled the film. What fun there is to be had from a work defined by its lack of ambition comes from John Travolta's cocksure performance as a Brylcreemed high-school heartbreaker. *CW: Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero*

KURT & COURTNEY (15)
Director: Nick Broomfield

There is a tragically pertinent lesson about the sacrifices which fame demands hidden somewhere in the new documentary *Kurt and Courtney*. But it would take a more intuitive film-maker than Nick Broomfield to wheedle it out. *Kurt and Courtney* is a voyeuristic freak show in which various interested parties, each with a stake in the Cobain legend, are paraded before us. The film's fatal flaw is that Broomfield places himself above these characters. He can't see that he has become the *maitre*'d in this parasites' banquet. *CW: Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End*

Ryan Gilbey

GENERAL RELEASE

THE APOSTLE (12)
Director Robert Duvall plunges into his role in a manner that is both terrifying and entrancing. West End: Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square

THE BIG LEBOWSKI (18)
Jeff Bridges, John Goodman and Steve Buscemi star in one of the most strung-out mysteries ever. *West End: ABC Panton Street, Odeon Camden Town, Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End*

THE BIG SWAP (18)
A drab, unconvincing and preachy drama about partner-swapping. *West End: Plaza*

CITY OF ANGELS (12)
Nicolas Cage plays an angel puzzling over whether or not to exchange his divinity for domestic bliss with a mortal woman (Meg Ryan). *West End: ABC Baker St, ABC Tottenham Court Rd, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End*

DREAM WITH THE FISHES (18)
Take a suicidal loser preparing to throw himself off a bridge. Add a junkie with a month to live and give them a few months on the road together before an inevitable tearful farewell. Serve with a sick-bag at the ready. Perhaps it's the realisation that *Dream with the Fishes* could so easily have been a nightmare that makes its success seem refreshing and deserved. *West End: Metro*

GIRLS' NIGHT (15)
Shameless tearjerker with Brenda Blethyn as a cancer-suffering bingo winner who jets off to Las Vegas for a last-chance holiday with her sister-in-law (Julie Walters). Initially bubbly, the picture soon becomes grossly manipulative. *CW: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End*

THE GIRL WITH BRAINS IN HER FEET (15)
Jaunty take on the rites-of-passage genre, set in Leicester in the 1970s. The lively script is complemented by the sparkling performance of Joanna Ward as the film's heroine. *West End: Rio Cinema*

JACKIE BROWN (15)
The movie's main focus is the desperation of its characters to make something of their lives before it's too late. *West End: Plaza*

JUNK MAIL (15)
This Norwegian black comedy's portrayal of the Oslo postal service is defamatory at best. Though its mixture of genres isn't entirely successful, *Junk Mail* has enough originality to see it through. *West End: Ritzy Cinema*

THE LAST TIME I COMMITTED SUICIDE (15)
A mannered and vacuous dip into the life of the Beat poet Neal Cassady, played by Thomas Jane. There's lots of fast cutting and theatrical lighting, but the film just amounts to the same old Beat clichés. *West End: ABC Piccadilly*

LIVE FLESH (18)
See The Independent Recommends, right. West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Gate Notting Hill, Curzon Minema, Odeon Camden Town, Richmond Filmhouse, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street

MIMIC (15)
Mira Sorvino stars as a doctor who successfully combats a virus that's sweeping New York by developing a rival cockroach species to wipe out the original disease-carriers. The result is an ingenious science-fiction-horror fable. *CW: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

MY SON THE FANATIC (15)
Hanif Kureshi establishes an opposition between an agreeable Pakistani taxi driver and his son, who has his sights set on becoming a fundamentalist Muslim. West End: ABC Swiss Centre

THE OBJECT OF MY AFFECTION (15)
Romantic comedy in which Paul Rudd confounds Jennifer Aniston's dreams of a wedding and a joint burial plot by turning out to be gay. *CW: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Phoenix Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea*

PALMETTO (15)
Ironic *film noir* directed by Volker Schlondorff. Harry Barber (Woody Harrelson) is the ex-con who gets *mixed up with a pair of duplicitous women* played by Gina Gershon and Elisabeth Shue. *CW: Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

POINT BLANK (18)
Re-release of John Boorman's chilling existential *thriller starring* Lee Marvin. *West End: Gate Notting Hill, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green*

PONETTE (15)
French tale of a precociously intelligent four-year-old girl (Victoire Thivisol) whose mother dies in a car accident. The young Thivisol is superb, yet it's hard to deny discomfort at watching one so young parading emotion this raw and primal. *CW: Curzon Mayfair, Metro*

RED CORNER (15)
Richard Gere's very public pro-Tibet stance must have blinded him to the failings of this clunking piece of anti-Chinese propaganda. *West End: Odeon Marble Arch, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys*

THE REPLACEMENT KILLERS (18)
Executive-produced by Hong Kong action director John Woo, this is an attempt to launch the American career of his favourite star, Chow Yun-Fat. *West End: Virgin Trocadero*

SAVIOR (18)
Politically inept war film set during the Bosnian conflict. Dennis Quaid stars as a man who loses his family in a Paris bomb blast and ends up becoming a hired killer. *West End: Virgin Haymarket*

SLIDING DOORS (15)
Romantic comedy in which its heroine, Gwyneth Paltrow, is sent off into two separate realities at the same time, with two different suitors. *West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero*

SOUL FOOD (15)
A black version of *Parenthood*, with all the attendant moralising, sentimentality and studied eccentricity which that implies. *West End: Clapham Picture House, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero*

STAR KID (PG)
Children's adventure about a young boy who's called upon to save the universe. What it lacks in budget, it makes up for in imagination. *West End: Hammersmith Virgin, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero*

STIFF UPPER LIPS (15)
Inspired spoof of the Merchant/Ivory movies from one of the talents responsible for *Leon the Pig Farmer*, starring Prunella Scales and Peter Ustinov. *West End: Plaza, Virgin Chelsea*

THE TASTE OF CHERRY (PG)
The joint winner of last year's Palme d'Or has taken a year to get a release over here, but is a hypnotic and moving experience. *West End: Renoir*

THE WAR AT HOME (15)
Tale of a traumatised Vietnam veteran on his return home to Texas adapted from James Duff's Broadway play, *Homefront. CW: Plaza*

THE WEDDING SINGER (12)
Dumb but winning comedy about a wedding singer (Adam Sandler) who falls for a waitress (Drew Barrymore), only to find that she's engaged to someone else. *West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea*

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

Film Ryan Gilbey

A HIGHLIGHT of this year's Edinburgh International Film Festival (which runs from 16 to 30 August) will be the retrospective of work by the late Alan Clarke. Acquaintance with his work puts Gary Oldman's **Nil By Mouth** (*left*) into context. Oldman clearly learnt a lot from Clarke (they worked together on *The Firm*, a drama about middle-class soccer hooligans). Like how to infuse harsh realism with tenderness. And how to ensure that even the most brutal characters, like Ray Winstone's wife-beating thug in *Nil By Mouth*, remain human at heart.
Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry (01203 524524) 6.30pm

A Spanish-speaking friend informs me that the subtitles for Pedro Almodovar's **Live Flesh** are some way off the mark. Never mind: this erotic thriller is an envigorating experience, even if it has passed through the subtitler's unsparing mangle.
On general release

Comedy James Rampton

THE 1996 PERRIER Award-winner, **Dylan Moran**, escaped from straight stand-up by making a memorable acting debut in Simon Nye's wonderful sitcom, *How Do You Want Me?* (*right*). Perhaps he caught the bug, because he has now penned his own comedy, *Black Books*, which features in the opening night of The Channel 4 Sitcom Festival. What's more, Moran is also appearing in it.
Riverside Studios, London, W6 (0181-237 1111) 7.30pm.

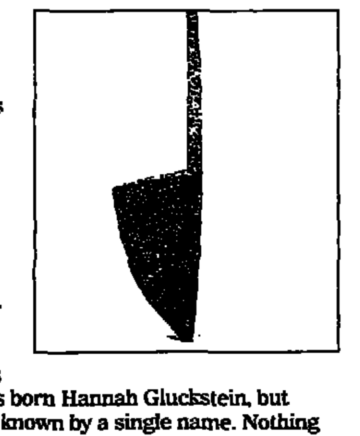
After appearances on Ben Elton's TV programme in his legendary armchair from *The Two Ronnies*, veteran comic **Ronnie Corbett** is now taking *An Evening with Ronnie Corbett* on the road.
Embassy Centre, Skegness (01754 768333) 8pm

Theatre Dominic Cavendish

PHYLLIDA LLOYD'S abstract reworking of **The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie** (*below*) took a savaging in *The Sunday Times* this weekend: "I cannot for the life of me imagine what the National Theatre thinks it is doing," John Peter gnashed. Keeping its audience entertained during the bleak summer stretch? This Fiona Shaw vehicle was always going to be more a family saloon than a Rolls-Royce, but it purrs along like few other shows in town.
Lyttelton Theatre, RNT, London SE1 (0171-452 3000) 7.30pm

The first and best of David Hare's Nineties state-of-the-nation trilogy, **Racing Demon**, has a welcome revival at the hands of Christopher Morahan, the director of Hugh Whitemore's *A Letter of Resignation*. It follows four Church of England clergymen battling against encroaching secularism.
Chichester Festival Theatre, Chichester (01243 781312) 7.30pm

Art Richard Ingleby



TWENTY-EIGHT of **William Turnbull's** elegant and ancient-looking bronzes are on show in Cork Street this week – a selection of masks, blades and horses heads are shown alongside his less familiar abstract paintings. There's a strain of simple austerity in both sides of his work, although the sculptures tend towards figurative forms, and a kind of eastern flavour in their simple physicality. Worth seeing.
Waddington Galleries, 12 & 34 Cork St, London W1 (0171-437 8611) to 18 Jul

Amazingly, this is the first ever exhibition in a public gallery of the 1930s painter known simply as **Gluck**. She was born Hannah Gluckstein, but preferred to dress in men's suits and be known by a single name. Nothing wrong with that, or with her paintings which were some of the most stylish British pictures of their day. The De la Warr Pavilion, one of the best early modernist buildings in the country, should prove the perfect setting.
The De la Warr Pavilion, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, to 9 Aug

CINEMA
WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET
(0171-935 9772) ⊖ *Baker Street* **City Of Angels** 1.15pm 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm **Sliding Doors** 1.20pm 3.40pm, 8.40pm

ABC PANTON STREET
(0171-930 0631) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus **As Good As It Gets** 2pm, 5pm 8pm **The Big Lebowski** 1.15pm, 3.40pm 6.05pm, 8.30pm **Good Will Hunting** 2.10pm, 5.15pm **L.A. Confidential** 8pm **Washington Square** 2.40pm 5.40pm, 8.25pm

ABC PICCADILLY
(0171-437 3561) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus **The Last Time I Committed Suicide** 1.35pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm **Mrs Brown** 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE
(0171-836 6279) ⊖ Leicester Square **Live Flesh** 1.10pm, 3.35pm 6pm 8.25pm **Sliding Doors** 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm 8.45pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE
(0171-439 4470) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus **Deconstructing Harry** 1.10pm, 3.20pm 6.10pm, 8.40pm **Happy Together** 6.20pm **Kundun** 1.10pm, 3.45pm 8.20pm **Martha - Meet Frank, Daniel & Laurence** 3.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.10pm **My Son The Fanatic** 1.10pm 5.10pm **Shall We Dance?** 1.10pm 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD
(0171-636 6148) ⊖ Tottenham Court Road **City Of Angels** 1.15pm 3.55pm 6.35pm, 9.15pm **The Object Of My Affection** 1.25pm, 4.05pm 6.45pm 9.20pm **The Wedding Singer** 1.50pm 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 9.25pm

BARBICAN SCREEN
(0171-382 7000) ⊖ Moorgate/Barbican **Love And Death On Long Island** 6.15pm, 8.40pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 6.15pm, 8.40pm

CHELSEA CINEMA
(0171-351 3742) ⊖ Sloane Square **Love And Death On Long Island** 2.35pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm 9pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE
(0171-498 2242) ⊖ Clapham Common **City Of Angels** 2pm, 4.30pm 7pm 9.30pm **Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)** 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm 9pm **Love And Death On Long Island** 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm 7.15pm, 9.15pm

CURZON MAYFAIR
(0171-369 1720) ⊖ Green Park **Ponette** 1.05pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm 8.35pm (+ Short Stone Tears)

ELEPHANT & CASTLE CORONET
(0171-703 4968) ⊖ *Elephant & Castle* **Mimic** 3.40pm, 5.55pm 8.30pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 3.45pm, 6.20pm 8.40pm **The Wedding Singer** 4pm 6.10pm, 8.50pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE
(0171-437 1234) ⊖ Leicester Square **The Apostle** 3pm 5.45pm 8.30pm **Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)** 12.50pm, 3.20pm, 6pm 8.40pm **Sliding Doors** 1pm, 3.20pm 5.40pm 8pm

GATE NOTTING HILL
(0171-727 4043) ⊖ Notting Hill Gate **Love And Death On Long Island** 1.55pm, 4.15pm, 6.35pm 8.55pm

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN
(0870-9070718) ⊖ Ravenscourt Park/Hammersmith **City Of Angels** 1.30pm 5.30pm, 8.20pm **Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)** 2.30pm 5.20pm 8.10pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 1pm 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.30pm **The Wedding Singer** *2pm, 5.20pm, 8pm*

METRO
(0171-437 0757) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus/Leicester Square **Armageddon** 9pm **Digital Biography of Hong Kong 1997, Program 2** 5pm **My Dad Is A Jerk** 7pm **Ponette** 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm *8.45pm*

CURZON MINEMA
(0171-369 1723) ⊖ Knightsbridge **Live Flesh** 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET
(0171-727 6705) ⊖ Notting Hill Gate **Six Days, Seven Nights** 3pm 6pm 8.30pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN
(0181-315 4229) ⊖ Camden Town **City Of Angels** 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm **Live Flesh** 12.20pm, 5.55pm **Mimic** 3.20pm, 8.40pm ***The Object Of My Affection*** *1.15pm, 3.45pm,* 6.25pm, 9.05pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 12.15pm, 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.35pm **The Wedding Singer** 12.05pm, 2.20pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm

ODEON HAYMARKET
(0181-315 4212) ⊖ *Piccadilly Circus* **The Wedding Singer** 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

ODEON KENSINGTON
(0181-315 4214) ⊖ High Street Kensington **Six Days, Seven Nights** 7pm, 9.35pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH
(0181-315 4216) ⊖ Marble Arch **City Of Angels** 12.15pm 3.05pm 5.55pm, 8.45pm **Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)** 12.15pm, 3.05pm 5.55pm 8.45pm **Mimic** 12.25pm, 3.15pm, 6.05pm 9pm **The Object Of My Affection** 12.25pm, 3.15pm, 6.05pm 9pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 1pm, 3.45pm 6.30pm, 9.15pm

ODEON MEZZANINE
(0181-315 4215) ⊖ Leicester Square ***As Good As It Gets*** *5.45pm, 8.25pm* **Lolita** 5.40pm 8.20pm **Martha - Meet Frank, Daniel & Laurence** 6.50pm, 9.05pm **Point Blank** 6.30pm 8.55pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE
(0181-315 4220) ⊖ Swiss Cottage **The Big Lebowski** *6.05pm, 8.35pm* **City Of Angels** 6pm, 8.35pm **The Object Of My Affection** 5.55pm 8.30pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 6.15pm, 8.45pm

ODEON WEST END
(0181-315 4221) ⊖ Leicester Square **The Object Of My Affection** 1pm 3.30pm 6.05pm 8.40pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 1.30pm, 3.50pm 6.25pm 8.45pm

PHOENIX CINEMA
(0181-444 6789) ⊖ East Finchley **The Object Of My Affection** 1.40pm 4pm 6.20pm 8.45pm

PLAZA
(0171-437 1234) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus **The Big Swap** 3.15pm 5.55pm, 9.55pm **Deep Impact** 3.10pm, 5.50pm 8.30pm **Jackie Brown** 4.15pm 7.40pm ***Stiff Upper Lips*** *3.30pm 8.10pm* **The War At Home** 5.35pm

RENOIR
(0171-837 8402) ⊖ Russell Square **Love And Death On Long Island** 2.35pm 4.40pm 6.50pm 9pm **The Taste Of Cherry** 2.20pm 4.30pm 6.40pm, 8.50pm

RIO CINEMA
(0171-254 6677) BR Dalston Kingsland **Love And Death On Long Island** 7pm, [illegible] **On The Town** 2.30pm

RITZY CINEMA
(0171-737 2121/733 2229) BR/⊖ Brixton **French Twist** 2.05pm **Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)** 2pm 4.25pm, [illegible] 9.05pm **Kurt & Courtney** 3pm, [illegible] 7.20pm, 9.30pm **Live Flesh** 7.05pm **Love And Death On Long Island** *1pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm* **The Object Of My Affection** 4.10pm [illegible] 9pm **The Wedding Singer** [illegible] 4.35pm, 9.20pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET
(0171-486 0036) ⊖ Baker Street **Love And Death On Long Island** 2.35pm [illegible] 6.50pm 9pm **The Object Of My Affection** 3.30pm 6.20pm 8.45pm

SCREEN ON THE GREEN
(0171-226 3520) ⊖ *Angel/Highbury & Islington* **Kurt & Courtney** 3pm 5pm, [illegible]

SCREEN ON THE HILL
(0171-435 3366) ⊖ Belsize Park **Love And Death On Long Island** 3.30pm [illegible] Q&A with director, [illegible] 7.00pm (+ Short Toy Boys)

UCI WHITELEYS
(0171-792 3332)
⊖ Bayswater/Queensway **City Of Angels** 3.15pm 6pm, 8.45pm **Deep Impact** 9.25pm **Girls' Night** 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7pm **Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)** 3.25pm, 6.15pm, 9pm **Mimic** 4.40pm, 7.15pm, 9.45pm **The Object Of My Affection** 4pm, 6.45pm, 9.30pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 3.45pm, 6.30pm 9.10pm **Sliding Doors** 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm **The Wedding Singer** 4.20pm, 6.55pm, 9.20pm

VIRGIN CHELSEA
(0870-9070710) ⊖ Sloane Square/South Kensington **The Object Of My Affection** 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.30pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm **Stiff Upper Lips** 3.30pm, 6.15pm 9pm **The Wedding Singer** 2pm, 5.20pm, 8pm

VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD
(0870-9070711) ⊖ South Kensington **The Big Lebowski** 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 7pm, 9.30pm **City Of Angels** 1.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm **Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)** 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm **Kurt & Courtney** 2pm, 4pm 6.30pm, 8.50pm **Point Blank** 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.40pm, 9pm **Sliding Doors** 2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm

VIRGIN HAYMARKET
(0870-9070712) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus **City Of Angels** 1.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm **Girls' Night** 1pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm **Love And Death On Long Island** 2pm, 4.15pm 6.30pm, 8.45pm

VIRGIN TROCADERO
(0870-9070716) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus **Dark City** 2.30pm 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.20pm **Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)** 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 9pm **Mimic** 12.50pm, 3.20pm, 6.30pm, 9.20pm **Palmetto** 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.50pm **The Replacement Killers** 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 9pm **Sliding Doors** 2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm **Soul Food** 12.30pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.50pm

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END
(0171-437 4347) ⊖ Leicester Square **The Big Lebowski** 1pm, 3.50pm, 9.30pm **City Of Angels** 12.30pm, 1.40pm, 3.10pm, 4.10pm, 5.50pm, 6.40pm 8.30pm 9.20pm **Girls' Night** 1.10pm 6.20pm **Kurt & Courtney** *11.50am 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.25pm,* 8.40pm **Lolita** 11.40am, 2.25pm, 5.20pm, 8.50pm **Mimic** 1.20pm, 3.55pm 6.30pm 9.10pm **Palmetto** 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm **Scream 2** 3.40pm 9pm **Titanic** 12noon 4pm, 8pm

CINEMA
LONDON LOCALS

ACTON
PARK ROYAL WARNER *VILLAGE (0181-896 0066)* ⊖ Park Royal **City Of Angels** 1.50pm 4.30pm, 7.00pm 9.30pm **Deep Impact** 1.20pm, 4.10pm 6.50pm 9.40pm **Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)** 1pm, 4.45pm, 7.20pm, 9.50pm **Mimic** 2.30pm, 5pm, 7.30pm 10pm **The Object Of My Affection** 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 2pm, 4.20pm 6.40pm, 9pm **Sliding Doors** 1.50pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm **Soul Food** 2.40pm, 5.10pm, 7.40pm, 10.10pm **The Wedding Singer** 1.40pm, 4pm 6.30pm, 9.20pm

BARKING
ODEON (0181-507 8444) ⊖ Barking **City Of Angels** 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm **Deep Impact** 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm **Mimic** 1.50pm 4.10pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm **Sliding Doors** 12.15pm, 2.25pm 4.35pm, 6.45pm, 9pm **The Wedding Singer** 12.20pm, 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm

BARNET
ODEON (0181-315 4210) ⊖ High Barnet **City Of Angels** 1.05pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm **Mimic** 1.25pm 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 5.55pm 8.20pm **Sliding Doors** 1.55pm, 4.15pm, 6.50pm *8.55pm* **The Wedding Singer** 1.45pm 4.05pm 6.35pm, 8.55pm

BECKENHAM
ABC (0870 902 0412) BR: Beckenham Junction **City Of Angels** 2.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm **The Object Of My Affection** 1.40pm, 6.20pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm ***The Wedding Singer*** *4.15pm,* 8.55pm

BEXLEYHEATH
CINEWORLD (0181-303 1550) BR: Bexleyheath **As Good As It Gets** 2.45pm **City Of Angels** 1.50pm, 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm **Deep Impact** 12.30pm, 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 7.45pm, 10.15pm **Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)** 12.20pm, 2.40pm, 5pm, 7.20pm, 9.45pm **Mimic** 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 5.10pm, 7.30pm, 9.50pm **The Object Of My Affection** 12.30pm, 5.45pm, 7.55pm, 10pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 12noon, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm **Sliding Doors** 12noon, 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm **Titanic** 12noon, 4.10pm, 8.15pm **The Wedding Singer** 12.30pm, 2.45pm, 4.50pm, 7.05pm, 9.20pm

BROMLEY
ODEON (0181-315 4211) BR: Bromley North **City Of Angels** 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm **Mimic** 4pm, 8.50pm **The Object Of My Affection** 1.35pm, 6.25pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 1.05pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm, *8.45pm* ***The Wedding Singer*** *1.45pm,* 4.10pm, 6.35pm, 9pm

CATFORD
ABC (0181-698 3306) BR: Catford. **Six Days, Seven Nights** 2.15pm, 6pm, 8.40pm **Sliding Doors** 2.30pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm

CROYDON
CLOCKTOWER (0181-253 1030) BR Croydon West **The Girl With Brains In Her Feet** 3.30pm **Girls' Night** 5.45pm, 8pm **Wild Man Blues** 5.45pm

SAFARI (0181 688 3422) BR: West Croydon. **Anastasia** 6pm **Major Saab** 8pm**Sliding Doors** 6.05pm, 8.05pm **The Wedding Singer** 2pm, 4pm, 6.05pm, 7.45pm, 8.05pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-680 8090) BR: East Croydon **City Of Angels** 3.45pm, *6.30pm, 9.05pm* ***Deep Impact*** *4.20pm,* 7pm, 9.50pm **Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)** 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.30pm **Mimic** 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm **The Object Of My Affection** 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm **Sliding Doors** 3pm, 5.05pm, 7.20pm, 9.40pm **The Wedding Singer** 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

DAGENHAM
WARNER VILLAGE (0181 592 2020) ⊖ Dagenham Heathway **City Of Angels** 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm **Deep Impact** 3.10pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm **Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)** *1.40pm, 4.15pm, 6.50pm,* 9.25pm **Mimic** 2.20pm, 5pm, 7.15pm, 9.45pm **The Object Of My Affection** 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 2.50pm, 5.10pm, 7.30pm, 9.50pm **Sliding Doors** 1.45pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.25pm **Titanic** 2pm, 5.50pm **The Wedding Singer** 2.30pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.15pm **Wishmaster** 10pm

EALING
VIRGIN UXBRIDGE ROAD (0870-9070719) BR/⊖ Ealing Broadway **City Of Angels** 2.15pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm **Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)** 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

EDGWARE
BELLE-VUE (0181-381 2556) ⊖ Edgware **City Of Angels** 5.15pm, 8.30pm **Gharwali Baharwali** phone for times **Jab Pyar Kissie Hota Hai** phone for times **Pyaar Kiya To Darna Kya** phone for times **Sliding Doors** 5.35pm, 8.35pm

EDMONTON
LEE VALLEY UCI 12 (0990-888990) ⊖ Tottenham Hale **Blues Brothers 2000** 3.45pm, 6.35pm **City Of Angels** 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm **Deep Impact** 4.50pm, 7.35pm, 10.15pm **Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)** 3.40pm, 6.20pmm, 9pm **Jab Pyar Kissie Hota Hai** 9.15pm **Mimic** 4.40pm, 7.10pm, 9.50pm **The Object Of My Affection** 4.35pm, 7.05pm, 9.45pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm **Sliding Doors** 3.15pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm **Soul Food** 4.25pm, 7.20pm, 10pm **Titanic** 4.20pm, 8.30pm **The Wedding Singer** 3.25pm, 6.05pm, *8.45pm* ***Wishmaster*** *3.50pm, 6.55pm,* 9.35pm

FELTHAM
CINEWORLD THE MOVIES (0181-867 0555) BR Feltham **As Good As It Gets** 12.10pm **City Of Angels** 11.20am, 1.50pm, 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 9.25pm **Deep Impact** 11.30am, 2pm, *4.30pm, 7pm, 9.35pm* **Gharwali Baharwali** 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9pm **Ghulam** 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm **Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)** 11.30am, 2pm, 4.25pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm **Jab Pyar Kissie Hota Hai** 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm **Major Saab** *11.55am, 3.10pm, 6.30pm,* 9.50pm **Mimic** 12.40pm, 2.55pm, 5.10pm, 7.30pm, 10pm **The Object Of My Affection** 11.45am, 2.10pm, 4.35pm, 7pm, 9.50pm **Satya** 11.20am, 2.40pm, 6pm, 9.20pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 12noon, 2.10pm, 4.40pm, *7.10pm,* 9.40pm **Sliding Doors** 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 5pm, 7.10pm, 9.35pm **Titanic** 12noon, 6pm **The Wedding Singer** 12.50pm, 3pm, 5.10pm, 7.20pm, 9.40pm **Wishmaster** 4pm, 9.50pm

FINCHLEY
WARNER VILLAGE (0181-446 9344) ⊖ East Finchley/Finchley Central **City Of Angels** 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.40pm **Deep Impact** 3.20pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm **Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)** 11.20am, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm **Mimic** 2.30pm, 4.50pm, *7.20pm, 9.50pm* ***The Object Of My Affection*** 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm **Sliding Doors** 2.50pm, 5.10pm, 7.30pm, *10pm* **The Wedding Singer** *1pm,* 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

GOLDERS GREEN
ABC (0181-455 1724) ⊖ Golders Green **Six Days, Seven Nights** 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

GREENWICH
CINEMA (0181-293 0101) BR: *Greenwich* ***City Of Angels*** *3.40pm,* 6.05pm, 9pm **The Object Of My Affection** 3.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

HAMPSTEAD
ABC (0870-902 0413) ⊖ Belsize Park **City Of Angels** 2.10pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm **Girls' Night** 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm

HAMMERSMITH
VIRGIN (0870-907 0718) ⊖ *Hammersmith* **City Of Angels** 1.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm **Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)** 2.30pm, 5.20pm, 8.10pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 1pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.30pm **The Wedding Singer** 2pm, 5.20pm, 8pm

HARROW
SAFARI CINEMA *(0181-426 0303)* ⊖ Harrow-on-the-Hill **Major Saab** 8.45pm **Satya** 8.45pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 9009) ⊖ Harrow on the Hill **City Of Angels** 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 9pm **Deep Impact** 3.20pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm **Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)** 2.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm **Mimic** 2.50pm, 5pm, 7.20pm, 9.30pm **The Object Of My Affection** 1.50pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm **Sliding Doors** 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.10pm **Soul Food** 1.40pm, 4.30pm, 7.10pm **The Wedding Singer** 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.20pm **Wishmaster** 9.40pm

HOLLOWAY
ODEON (0181-315 4213) ⊖ Archway **City Of Angels** 2pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm **Mimic** 1.40pm, 6.30pm **The Object Of My Affection** 3.50pm, 8.40pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 1.55pm, 4.15pm, 6.35pm, 8.55pm

ILFORD
ODEON (0181-315 4223) ⊖ Gants Hill **City Of Angels** 2.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm **Deep Impact** 1pm, 5.55pm **Mimic** 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm **Sliding Doors** 3.25pm, 8.35pm ***The Wedding Singer*** *1.20pm, 3.40pm,* 6pm, 8.30pm

KINGSTON
ABC OPTIONS (0870-902 0409) BR Kingston **City Of Angels** 2.10pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm **The Object Of My Affection** *2.15pm, 5.40pm, 8.15pm* **Six Days, Seven Nights** 2.30pm, 6pm, 8.25pm

MUSWELL HILL
ODEON (315 4217) ⊖ Highgate **City Of Angels** 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm **The Object Of My Affection** 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm

PECKHAM
PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR: Peckham Rye **City Of Angels** 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm **Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)** 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.55pm **Mimic** 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.45pm **The Object Of My Affection** 4.05pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm **Soul Food** 3.50pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm

PURLEY
ABC (0870-902 0407) BR: Purley **The Object Of My Affection** 5.40pm, 8.30pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 5.10pm, 8.10pm **Sliding Doors** 5.50pm, 8.40pm

PUTNEY
ABC (0870 902 0401) ⊖ Putney Bridge. BR: Putney. **City Of Angels** 1pm, 3 30pm, 6.0pm, 8.30pm **The Object Of My Affection** 1pm, 6pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm **The Wedding Singer** 3.30pm, 8.30pm

RICHMOND
ODEON STUDIO (0181-315 4218) BR/⊖ Richmond **City Of Angels** 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9pm **The Object Of My Affection** 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm **The Wedding Singer** 1.30pm, 4pm, 7pm, 9.30pm

ROMFORD
ABC (0870-902 0419) BR: Romford **City Of Angels** 2.25pm, 5.40pm, 8 15pm **Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)** 2.20pm, 5 50pm, 8.20pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 2.10pm, 6 05pm, 8 30pm

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (01708-729040) BR: Romford **City Of Angels** 12 40pm, 3 15pm, 5.50pm, 8 20pm **Deep Impact** 12.30pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 8 10pm **Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)** 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm **Mimic** 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.50pm **The Object Of My Affection** 12.50pm, 3 35pm, 6.10pm, 8 30pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 1 20pm, 4pm, 6 30pm, 8.45pm **Sliding Doors** 12 15pm, 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm **The Wedding Singer** 1 30pm, 3.40pm, 6 20pm, 8.40pm

SIDCUP
ABC (0541-555131) BR Sidcup **City Of Angels** 2.20pm, 5 20pm, 8.20pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 2 30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

STAPLES CORNER
VIRGIN (0870-907 0717) BR: Cricklewood **City Of Angels** 1 30pm, 5.30pm, 8 20pm **Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)** 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm **Mimic** 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm **The Object Of My Affection** 2 15pm, 5.15pm, 8.30pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 9pm **The Wedding Singer** 2pm, 5.20pm, 8pm

STREATHAM
ABC (0870-902 0415) BR Streatham Hill **City Of Angels** 2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm **Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)** 2 15pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm **Sliding Doors** 2.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.45pm

ODEON (0181-315 4219) BR *Streatham Hill/⊖ Brixton/Clapham* Common **Mimic** 2 20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8 50pm **The Object Of My Affection** 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6 10pm, 8.40pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm **Soul Food** 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.40pm **The Wedding Singer** 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

STRATFORD
NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (555 3366) BR/⊖ Stratford East **City Of Angels** 3.55pm, 9pm **The Girl With Brains In Her Feet** 2pm, 6.50pm **Girls' Night** 1 30pm, 6.30pm **Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)** 1.40pm 4.10pm, 6 40pm, 9.10pm **The Object Of My Affection** 4 20pm, 6 50pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 2 15pm, 4 35pm, 6.55pm, 9.15pm

SUTTON
UCI 6 (0990-888990) BR Sutton/⊖ Morden **City Of Angels** 4.15pm, 6 45pm, 9 15pm **Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)** 4pm, 6 30pm 9pm **Mimic** 2 45pm **The Object Of My Affection** 4 45pm 7 15pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 4 30pm 7pm **Sliding Doors** 3 20pm, 6pm 8.30pm **The Wedding Singer** 3 45pm, 6.15pm, 8 45pm

TURNPIKE LANE
CORONET (0181-888 2519) ⊖ Turnpike Lane **Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)** 3 50pm 6 20pm 8 55pm **Mimic** 3 40pm 5 55pm 8.30pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 3 45pm, 6 20pm, 8.40pm

UXBRIDGE
ODEON (01895-813139) ⊖ Uxbridge **City Of Angels** 1 30pm 5 10pm 8.30pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 1 10pm, 3 45pm, 6 10pm 8 35pm

WALTHAMSTOW
ABC (0870-902 0424) ⊖ Walthamstow Central **Mimic** 1 25pm, 3 40pm 6 15pm 8 40pm **The Object Of My Affection** 1 20pm 3 40pm, 6pm, 8.20pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 1 45pm 4pm 6.15pm 8 30pm

WALTON ON THAMES
THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-252825) BR Walton on Thames **Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)** 3 05pm 6 05pm, 8.25pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 3 45pm 6 30pm, 8 45pm

WELL HALL
CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR Eltham **Mimic** 3 40pm 5 55pm, 8 30pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 3 45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

WILLESDEN
BELLE-VUE (0181-830 0822) ⊖ Willesden Green **City Of Angels** 4pm, 6 30pm, 9pm

WIMBLEDON
ODEON (0181-315 4222) BR ⊖ Wimbledon/⊖ South Wimbledon **City Of Angels** 1pm 3.30pm, 6pm, 6 30pm **Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)** 1pm, 3.30pm, 6 0pm, 6 30pm **The Object Of My Affection** 1 10pm, 3 30pm, 6pm 8 30pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8 40pm **Sliding Doors** 4 30pm 6 45pm **The Wedding Singer** 2.20pm, 6 45pm

WOODFORD
ABC (0181-989 3463) ⊖ South Woodford **City Of Angels** 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.25pm **The Object Of My Affection** 1 15pm, 3.40pm, 6 10pm, 8.30pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

WOOLWICH
CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR: Woolwich Arsenal **Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)** 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm **Six Days, Seven Nights** 3 45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

CINEMA
REPERTORY

LONDON
CINE LUMIERE AT THE INSTITUT FRANCAIS Queensberry Place SW7 (0171-838 2144/2146) **Marius Et Jeannette (15)** 7.30pm

ICA The Mall SW1 (0171-930 3647) **The Fundamental Gilbert And George (NC)** 5pm, 7pm, 9pm **The Streetwalker (NC)** 6 30pm **Behind Convent Walls (NC)** 8.30pm

THE LUX Hoxton Square N1 (0171-684 0201) **Slovakia Programme 1 (NC)** 7pm **Slovakia Programme 2 (NC)** 9pm

NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-633 0274/cc 928 3232) **Wag The Dog (15)** 2 30pm **Across The Bridge (NC)** 6.15pm **Where There Was Once Silence: Television: Education Event (NC)** 6 20pm **That Night's Wife: Yasujiro Ozu (NC)** 6.30pm **Wild Strawberries (15)** 7.30pm **Self/Other: Shorts Cuts (NC)** 8.30pm **Don't Look Now (18)** 8 40pm

PEPSI IMAX The Trocadero, Piccadilly Circus W1 (0171-494 4153) **Across The Sea Of Time - A New York Adventure (3-D) (U)** 11am, 1.05pm, 5.20pm **L5-City In Space (NC)** 12.10pm, 2.15pm, 4.25pm, 6.30pm, 8.25pm **Everest (U)** 3.20pm, 7.50pm

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place WC2 (0171-437 8181) **U.S. Marshals (15)** 1pm **The Scarlet Tunic (12)** 3 45pm **The Ice Storm (15)** 6pm **Boogie Nights (18)** 8.30pm

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS CINEMA Crisp Road W6 (0181-237 1111/cc 420 0100) **Kids (18)** 7pm + Gummo 8.50pm

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE High Street (0181-568 1176) **Lolita (18)** 4.30pm **The Real Blonde (15)** 7pm **City Of Angels (12)** 9pm

BRISTOL
WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) **Love And Death On Long Island (15)** 6pm, 8.25pm **Journey To The Beginning Of The World (U)** 6.05pm **The Big Lebowski (18)** 8.15pm

CAMBRIDGE
ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444) **Good Will Hunting (15)** 12.30pm **Love And Death On Long Island (15)** 2.45pm, 9.20pm **Afterglow (15)** 4.50pm **The General (15)** 7pm

CARDIFF
CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-399666) **Love And Death On Long Island (15)** 2.30pm, 8pm **The Real Blonde (15)** 7.30pm

CHICHESTER
NEW PARK FILM CENTRE (01243-786650) **Mrs Brown (PG)** 3 30pm **Washington Square (PG)** 6pm **As Good As It Gets (15)** 8.45pm

IPSWICH
IPSWICH FILM THEATRE (01473-215544) **Shall We Dance? (PG)** 6pm, 8.30pm **Amy Foster (12)** 6.15pm, 8.30pm

NORWICH
CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) **Live Flesh (18)** 5.45pm **Wag The Dog (15)** 8.15pm

CINEMA
COUNTRYWIDE

BRIGHTON
ABC EAST STREET (01273-327010) **The Object Of My Affection** (15) **Sliding Doors** (15). **Six Days, Seven Nights** (12)

ODEON (01273-207977). **Six Days, Seven Nights** (12). **The Wedding Singer** (12). **The Object Of My Affection** (15). **The Big Lebowski** (18). **MouseHunt** (PG) **City Of Angels** (12) **Mimic** (15)

VIRGIN (0541-555145) **The Wedding Singer** (12) **City Of Angels** (12) **Star Kid** (PG). **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 2** (PG). **Six Days, Seven Nights** (12) **Deep Impact** (12). **MouseHunt** (PG) **Mimic** (15). **The Object Of My Affection** (15). **Grease** (20th Anniversary Edition) (PG). **Sliding Doors** (15)

BRISTOL
ARNOLFINI (0117-929 9191) **The Wedding Banquet** (15) **The Ice Storm** (15)

CINEWORLD THE MOVIES (01275-831099) **Six Days, Seven Nights** (12) **Grease** (20th Anniversary Edition) (PG). **Wishmaster** (18) **101 Dalmatians** (U) **MouseHunt** (PG) **As Good As It Gets** (15). **Deep Impact** (12) **Jab Pyar Kissie Hota Hai** (PG). **City Of Angels** (12). **Blues Brothers 2000** (PG). **Sliding Doors** (15). **Star Kid** (PG) **Mimic** (15). **Scream 2** (18). **Anastasia** (U). **Bean** (PG). **The Big Lebowski** (18) **The Wedding Singer** (12). **Dushman** (15). **The Object Of My Affection** (15). **Titanic** (12). **Dark City** (15)

ORPHEUS HENLEAZE (0117-962 1644). **Lolita** (18) **The Wedding Singer** (12): **Six Days, Seven Nights** (12). **Amy Foster** (12)

ODEON (0117-929 0882) **George Of The Jungle** (U). **Flubber** (U) **The Object Of My Affection** (15). **Good Will Hunting** (15). **Paws** (PG). **The Wedding Singer** (12). **Six Days, Seven Nights** (12)

ABC WHITELADIES ROAD (0117-973 3640). **Mimic** (15) **Sliding Doors** (15): **Grease** (20th Anniversary Edition) (PG). **City Of Angels** (12)

WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) **Ugetsu Monogatari** (NC). **Kwietniowski Short Films + Intro** (18). **Love And Death On Long Island** (15). **The Big Lebowski** (18). **Fists In The Pocket** (NC). **Exploitation Double Bill** (18) **Journey To The Beginning Of The World** (U)

THEATRE
WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today; times and prices for the week; running times include intervals. ● — Seats at all prices ◗ — Seats at some prices ○ — Returns only Matinees — [1]: Sun, [3]: Tue, [4]: Wed, [5]: Thu, [6]: Fri, [7]: Sat

● **ANIMAL CRACKERS** Three actors recreate the wild antics of the Marx Brothers. **Barbican Sculpture Court** Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 4141) ⊖ Barbican/Moorgate. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Sat 2pm, ends 11 Jul. £10-£19

● **ART** Richard Griffiths, Tony Haygarth, Malcolm Storry in Yasmina Reza's comedy about art and friendship. **Wyndham's Theatre** Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736/cc 867 1111) ⊖ Leicester Square. Tue-Sat 8pm, mats Wed 3pm, Sat & Sun 5pm, £9.50-£27.50. 90 mins.

● **AS YOU LIKE IT** Shakespeare's literary comedy contrasting the court and the natural world. **The Globe** New Globe Walk, SE1 (0171-401 9919) ⊖ London Bridge. In rep, tonight 7.30pm, ends 8 Sep. £5-£20, concs available. 180 mins.

● **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** Lavish family musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the favourite fairy tale. **Dominion Theatre** Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-656 1888) ⊖ Tottenham Court Road. Mon-Sat 7 30pm, mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm, £17.50-£32.50. 150 mins

● **BLOOD BROTHERS** Willy Russell's long-running Liverpool musical melodrama. **Phoenix Theatre** Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733) ⊖ Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Thu 3pm, Sat 4pm, £10.50-£29.50. 165 mins.

● **BUDDY** *Musical biog-show* tracing the brief life of Buddy Holly. **Strand Theatre** Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800) ⊖ Covent Garden/Charing Cross. Tue-Thu 8pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30pm, mats Sun 4pm. £6.75-£30. 160 mins.

◗ **CATS** Lloyd Webber's musical version of TS Eliot's poems. **New London Theatre** Parker Street, WC2 (0171-405 0072/cc 404 4079) ⊖ Covent Garden/Holborn. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Tue & Sat 3pm, £12.50-£32.50. 165 mins

○ **CHICAGO** Ruthie Henshall stars in this hit Broadway musical about two murderous women. **Adelphi Theatre** Maiden Lane, WC2 (0171-344 0055) ⊖ Charing Cross. Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm, £16-£36 (incl booking fee). 130 mins.

● **CLASS** Season of plays written by London schoolchildren and directed by Mark Ravenhill amongst others. ***Royal Court Theatre Upstairs* (at The Ambassadors)** West Street, WC2 (0171-565 5000) ⊖ Leicester Square. 8 & 9 Jul, 7.45pm, £5, concs £2.

◗ **CLOSER** Superb study of contemporary sexual relationships from Dealer's Choice author Patrick Marber. **Lyric Theatre** Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat 7 30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £5-£27.50. 140 mins.

● **THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED)** *Reduced Shakespeare* Company fast-forward through 37 plays. **Criterion Theatre** Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1747) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus. Wed-Sat 8pm, mats Thu 3pm, Sat 5pm, Sun 4pm, £9.50-£20. 120 mins.

● **DR DOLITTLE** Philip Schofield talks to the animals in this new stage adaptation featuring Jim Henson Puppets. **Labatt's Apollo Hammersmith** Queen Caroline Street, W6 (0171-416 6022) ⊖ Hammersmith. Mon-Sat 7 30pm, mats Wed & Sat 2 30pm, £10-£32.50 150 mins

● **ELTON JOHN'S GLASSES** David Farr's comedy about one man's obsession with Watford Football Club and their failure to win the Cup Final in 1984. **Queen's Theatre** Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5590 cc 344 4444) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus Mon-Fri 7.45pm Sat 6pm, Sat 4pm ends 11 July, £10 50-£27 50 120 mins

◗ **GREASE** Marissa Dunlop stars in the stage version of the hit film. **Cambridge Theatre** Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-494 5060) ⊖ Covent Garden Mon-Sat 7 30pm mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £10-£30 165 mins

● **HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE** Paula Vogel's drama about the incestuous relationship between a teenager and her uncle **Donmar Warehouse** Earlham Street WC2 (0171-369 1732) ⊖ Covent Garden Mon-Sat 8pm mats Thu & Sat 4pm, £12-£16, concs available 95 mins.

○ **THE ICEMAN COMETH** Kevin Spacey stars in Eugene O Neill's classic testimony to the power of dreams **Old Vic** The Cut SE1 (0171-928 7616/cc 420 0000) BR/⊖ Waterloo Mon-Sat 7pm, mats Sat 1 30pm, ends 1 Aug. £5-£30. 150 mins

● **AN IDEAL HUSBAND** Christopher Cazenove and Kate O'Mara in Peter Hall's acclaimed production of Wilde's comedy **Albery Theatre** St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730/cc 867 1111) ⊖ Leicester Square Mon-Sat 7 45pm mats Thu 3pm Sat 4pm, £7.50-£29 50 165 mins

● **AN INSPECTOR CALLS** Stephen Daldry's *widely-acclaimed* production of JB Priestley's thriller **Garrick Theatre** Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085) ⊖ Leicester Square. Mon-Fri 7 45pm Sat 8 15pm, mats Wed 2.30pm Sat 5pm, £10 50-£25. 110 mins.

● **KAT AND THE KINGS** Musical set in 1950s Cape Town **Vaudeville Theatre** Strand WC2 (0171-836 9987) BR ⊖ Charing Cross. Mon-Thu 8pm Fri-Sat 5 30pm & 8 30pm £6 25-£27 50 130 mins

● **A LETTER OF RESIGNATION** Hugh Whitemore's play about the Profumo affair and political morality **Savoy Theatre** Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888 cc 836 0479) ⊖ Charing Cross Embankment. Mon-Sat 7 45pm mats Wed 3pm, Sat 4pm, £12 50-£25 135 mins

● **MAJOR BARBARA** Jemma Redgrave and Peter Bowles star in George Bernard Shaw's classic comedy about an ardent salvationist. **Piccadilly Theatre** Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus. In rep, tonight 7 45pm, continuing in rep. £8.50-£27.50. 180 mins.

● **THE MERCHANT OF VENICE** Shakespeare's cross cultural comedy. **The Globe** New Globe Walk, SE1 (0171-401 9919) ⊖ London Bridge. In rep, today 2pm, ends 19 Sep, £5-£20, concs available. 180 mins.

● **A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM** Tale of love and confusion set in the fairy kingdom. **Open Air Theatre** Regent's Park, NW1 (0171-*486 2431/cc 486 1933) ⊖ Baker Street.* Today 2.30pm & 8pm, ends 5 Sep, £8-£20. 165 mins.

◗ **LES MISERABLES** Musical dramatisation of Victor Hugo's masterpiece. **Palace Theatre** Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-434 0909) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Thu & Sat 2.30pm, £7-£32.50. 195 mins.

◗ **MISS SAIGON** Musical which resets the Madam Butterfly tragedy to Vietnam. **Theatre Royal, Drury Lane** Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5060) ⊖ Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £5.75-£32.50. 165 mins.

● **THE MOUSETRAP** Agatha Christie's whodunnit. **St Martin's Theatre** West Street, WC2 (0171-836 1443) ⊖ Leicester Square. Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Tue 2.45pm, Sat 5pm, £9-£23. 135 mins.

● **MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING** Declan Donnellan directs Cheek By Jowl in a new production of Shakespeare's classic. **Playhouse Theatre** *Northumberland Avenue*, WC2 (0171-839 4401/cc 316 4747) ⊖ Embankment. *Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats* Thu & Sat 2.30pm, ends 25 Jul, £10-£22. 120 mins

● **THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD** David Mamet's new play is directed by Patrick Marber. **Royal Court Theatre (at the Duke Of York's)** St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-565 5000) ⊖ Leicester Square/Charing Cross. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Sat 3.30pm, £5-£19.50, benches 10p, Mon - all seats £5. 90 mins

○ **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical. **Her Majesty's Theatre** Haymarket, SW1 (0171-494 5400/cc 344 4444) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £10-£32.50. 150 mins.

● **POPCORN** Lawrence Boswell directs Ben Elton's satire on cinema violence. **Apollo Theatre** Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Wed 3pm, Sat 4pm, £6.50-£23.50. *150 mins.*

● **THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND & BLACK COMEDY** Double bill of drama from Tom Stoppard and Peter Schaffer. **Comedy Theatre** Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus/Leicester Square. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £7.50-£27.50. 165 mins.

◗ **RENT** Musical inspired by La Boheme and set in modern day New York. **Shaftesbury Theatre** Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5399) ⊖ *Holborn/Tottenham Court Road. Mon-*Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £12.50-£32.50. 160 mins.

ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE
● **OLIVIER: Oklahoma!** Rodgers and Hammerstein's classic musical featuring the song Oh What A Beautiful Mornin'. In rep, tonight 7.15pm, ends 3 Oct
● **LYTTELTON: The Prime Of Miss Jean Brodie** Fiona Shaw stars as the Scottish schoolmistress. In rep, tonight 7.30pm, ends 3 Oct 155 mins.
○ **COTTESLOE: Our Lady Of Sligo** Out Of Joint's latest production stars Sinead Cusack. In rep, tonight 7.30pm, ends 4 Aug. 150 mins Oklahoma! £12-£32.50. ⊖ Waterloo Olivier & Lyttelton: £8-£27 Cottesloe £12-£18. South Bank, SE1 (0171-452 3000)

○ **SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER** Hit 1970s musical featuring songs by the Bee Gees **London Palladium** Argyll Street, W1 (0171-494 5020) ⊖ Oxford Circus Mon-Sat 7 30pm, mats Wed & Sat 2 30pm £10-£32 50 135 mins

○ **SHAKESPEARE'S VILLAINS** Steven Berkoff's study of evil in Shakespeare **Theatre Royal, Haymarket** Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus. Tue-Sat 8.15pm, mats Sat 5pm, ends 9 Aug, £8-£17 50 concs £10 70 mins.

● **SHOW BOAT** Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein's musical set on the Mississippi **Prince Edward Theatre** Old Compton Street W1 (0171-447 5400) ⊖ Leicester Square Tottenham Court Road Mon-Sat 7 30pm, mats Thu & Sat 2 30pm £10-£35 180 mins

● **SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE - THE SONGS OF LEIBER AND STOLLER** The rock and roll hitmakers celebrated in a musical revue that includes Jailhouse Rock **Prince of Wales Theatre** Coventry Street, W1 (0171-839 5972) ⊖ Leicester Square. Mon-Thu 8pm Fri 5 45pm & 8 30pm, Sat 3pm & 8pm, £15-£32 50. Fri mats £10-£25 135 mins.

● **STARLIGHT EXPRESS** Andrew Lloyd Webber's hi-tech roller-musical. **Apollo Victoria** Wilton Road, SW1 (0171-416 6070) BR/⊖ Victoria. Mon-Sat 7 45pm mats Tue & Sat 3pm. £12 50-£30 150 mins.

● **SWEET CHARITY** Classic musical featuring the numbers Hey Big Spender and the Rhythm Of Life **Victoria Palace** Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 1317) BR/⊖ Victoria Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £15-£30. 160 mins

◗ **THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE** Jane Asher stars **Gielgud Theatre** Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus Mon-Sat 7.45pm *mats Thu & Sat 3pm*, £10 50-£27.50 140 mins

◗ **THE UNEXPECTED MAN** Yasmina Reza's follow-up to Art is a drama about a novelist and a life-long admirer. **Duchess Theatre** Catherine Street WC2 (0171-494 5075) ⊖ Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Wed 4pm Sat 5pm £10-£25 100 mins

FIRST CALL, LAST CALL

First Call
ROD STEWART *(right)* has announced two London dates in December. His latest album, *When We Were the New Boys*, features covers of contemporary acts as diverse as Skunk Anansie and Oasis, and shows that the ageing braveheart is still at the helm and sailing with the times. This is characteristic of a career which has spanned three decades; from his early work with The Faces, to late Seventies classics such as "Do You Think I'm Sexy?".
Earl's Court, Warwick Road, London SW5 (0171-373 8141) £25, £30, £50 (plus booking fee) 9 and 11 Dec

Last Call
IT'S EARLY CLOSING for Hal Prince's revival of the classic musical Show Boat, which now ends on 19 September after a five-month run. The musical garnered gushing reviews, from *The Daily Telegraph*, which praised Hal Prince for a "superbly organised production", to the "sumptuous" accolade of *The Evening Standard*. With music by Jerome Kern, book and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II, based on a novel *Show Boat* by Edna Ferber, directed by Harold Prince and choreographed by Susan Stroman.
Prince Edward Theatre, Northumberland Avenue, London WC2 (0171-447 5400) £12.50 - £32.50, to 19 Sept

● **WHAT YOU GET AND WHAT YOU EXPECT** Acerbic look at a generation bent on success from Jean-Marie Besset. **Lyric Hammersmith** King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311) ⊖ Hammersmith. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Sat 2.30pm, ends 8 Aug, £10-£14, concs available.

◗ **WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND** Lloyd Webber's new musical based on the film of the same name. **Aldwych Theatre** Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6003/cc 836 2428) ⊖ Holborn. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Thu & Sat 3pm. £10-£32.50. 120 mins.

● **THE WOMAN IN BLACK** Susan Hill's chilling ghost story. **Fortune Theatre** Russell Street, WC2 (0171-836 2238) ⊖ Covent Garden/Holborn. Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Tue 3pm, Sat 4pm, no perf May 25, £8.50-£23.50. 110 mins.

THEATRE
BEYOND THE WEST END

BAC
The Changeling Middleton and Rowley's tale of deception. Tue-Sun 7.30pm, ends 19 Jul. £9, concs £6. **The Glass Menagerie** William's drama about a faded beauty who lives in a St Louis slum . Tue-Sat 8pm, Sun 6pm, ends 19 Jul. £9.50-£11, concs £6. Lavender Hill (0171-223 2223)

KING'S HEAD, ISLINGTON
Billy Liar Paul Nicholls stars as the bored *undertaker's clerk who dreams of escape.* Tue-Sat 8pm, mats Sat & Sun 3.30pm, ends 12 Jul. £12, concs £7. Upper Street, N1 (0171-226 1916) ⊖ Angel.

YOUNG VIC **Twelfth Night** Tim Supple directs. In rep, tonight 7.30pm, ends 25 Jul. £15, concs £12. The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363) BR/⊖ Waterloo.

THEATRE
COUNTRYWIDE

CANTERBURY
CONNEX STUDIO THEATRE, ST MARY'S HALL **Pork Bellies** Provocative and humourous play about a trader on the Chicago Futures Exchange. Tonight 2.30pm & 7.30pm. £3.50-£5, concs £4. Northgate (01227-787787)

CHICHESTER
CHICHESTER FESTIVAL THEATRE **Racing Demon** David Hare's gripping drama follows the lives and work of four Church Of England clergy Mon-Sat 7 30pm, mats Thu & Sat 2 30pm, ends 1 Aug. £6.50-£25 Oaklands Park (01243-781312)

MINERVA STUDIO THEATRE **Loot** Joe Orton's farce about the aftermath of a bank robbery Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Thu & Sat 2 45pm, ends 18 Jul. £10-£12.50, concs available Oaklands Park (01243-781312)

NORWICH
THEATRE ROYAL **West Side Story** Bernstein and Sondheim's musical version of Romeo And Juliet Mon-Sat 7 30pm mats Thu & Sat *2.30pm, ends 18 Jul £4-£25 50* Theatre Street (01603-630000)

OXFORD
OLD FIRE STATION THEATRE **The Fall And Rise Of Sir Walter Raleigh** Witty depiction of the life of this renowned historical figure. Mon-Sat *7 30pm, mats Thu 2 30pm, ends 18 Jul.* £9-£10, concs £7-£8 George Street (01865-794490)

PLYMOUTH
DRUM THEATRE, THEATRE ROYAL **True West** Story of an uncomfortable meeting between a hard-working young American and his slovenly brother Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, ends 11 Jul. £8 50, concs available Royal Parade South (01752-267222)

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
THE OTHER PLACE **Shadows: Riders To The Sea & The Shadow of The Glen & Purgatory** Triple-bill of drama by WB Yeats and JM Synge. In rep, tonight 7.30pm, ends 4 Sep £12-£19 Southern Lane (01789-295623)

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE **The Tempest** Adrian Noble directs Shakespeare's romance drama In rep, tonight 7 30pm, ends 29 Aug £5-£37 Waterside (01789-295623)

SWAN THEATRE **The Two Gentlemen Of Verona** Directed by Edward Hall In rep, tonight 7 30pm, ends 5 Sep £5-£31. Waterside (01789-295623)

SWINDON
WYVERN THEATRE **Pygmalion** Shaw's famous comedy about the elevation of a flower girl Tonight 7 30pm £8-£9 concs £7-£8. Theatre Square (01793-524481)

WELLINGBOROUGH
THE CASTLE **Much Ado About Nothing** Shakespeare's tale of intrigue and passion Tonight 7 30pm £8 concs £6 50 Castle Way (01933-270007)

EXHIBITIONS

BATH
THE ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY **Image and Icon** Greek photography 1975-1995. Mon-Sun 9.30am-5.30pm (last adm. 4.45pm), ends 19 Jul. £2.50, concs £1.75. The Octagon Galleries, Milsom Street (01225-462841)

BRISTOL
ARNOLFINI **Tracey Moffatt: An Exhibition Of Photographs And Films** First major solo show. Mon-Sat 10am-7pm, Sun 12noon-6pm, ends 23 Aug, free. Narrow Quay (0117-929 9191)

LONDON
BARBICAN ART GALLERY **The Warhol Look: Glamour, Style, Fashion** Over 500 works by 60 artists explore art, film and fashion during Warhol's life. Mon, Thu-Sat 10am-6.45pm, Tue 10am-5.45pm, Wed 10am-7.45pm, Sun & Bank Hols 12noon-6.45pm, ends 16 Aug. £6 (£4 after 5pm Mon-Fri), concs £4. Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 4141) ⊖ Barbican/Moorgate.

DULWICH PICTURE GALLERY **Paula Rego** The leading painter presents new work inspired by a 19th century novel. Tue-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 11am-5pm, Sun 2pm-5pm, ends 26 Jul. £3, OAP/NUS £1.50, UB40\disabled\child\Fri free (to gallery). College Road, SE21 (0181-693 5254) BR: West Dulwich/North Dulwich.

EUROPEAN ACADEMY AND ACCADEMIA ITALIANA **Sensitivities: Contemporary Art From Central Europe** Art from the past fifteen years. Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Wed till 8pm, Sun 2pm-6pm, ends 30 Aug, free. Grosvenor Place, SW1 (0171-235 0303) ⊖ Hyde Park Corner.

KENWOOD HOUSE **Angels And Urchins: The Fancy Picture In 18th Century British Art** Popular 18th century painting by artists includeing Gainsborough and Joseph Wright of Derby. Mon-Sun 10am-5.30pm, ends 9 Aug. £3.50, concs £2.50, under 12s free. Hampstead Lane, NW3 (0181-348 1286) ⊖ Golders Green/Archway, then bus.

NATIONAL GALLERY **Masters Of Light: Dutch Painting From Utrecht In The Golden Age** Dutch paintings from the 17th century demonstrating unique use of light. Ends 2 Aug. £5, concs £3. **Caravaggio: The Flagellation Of Christ** Exhibition centred on a loaned work by the artist. Mon-Sat 10am-6pm (Wed until 8pm), Sun 12noon-6pm, ends 9 Aug, free Trafalgar Square, WC2 (0171-839 3321) ⊖ *Charing Cross.*

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS **Royal Academy Summer Exhibition 1998** Major annual selling exhibition Mon-Sun 10am-6pm (Sun to 8.30pm), ends 16 Aug. £7, UB40/OAP £5.50, NUS £5, child 12-18 £2.50, child 8-11 £1, incl handbook. **Critical Mass: Antony Gormley** Sixty casts of human bodies displayed in the courtyard. Mon-Sun all day, ends 30 Sep, free
Chagall: Love And The Stage Featuring colourful murals made in *Russia Mon-Sun 10am-6pm (Sun Jul* 10am-8.30pm), ends 4 Oct. £6, concs £5, NUS £4, child 12-18 £2.50, child 8-11 £1 Burlington House, Piccadilly, W1 (0171-300 8000) ⊖ Green Park.

TATE GALLERY ***Some New Paintings: Lucian Freud*** Recent work by the leading British artist. Ends 26 Jul. free **Patrick Heron** Retrospective of the British artist who played a major role in post-war abstract art. Ends 6 Sep. £5, conc £3.25 **Moonlight And Firelight: Watercolours *From The Turner Bequest*** *Work* exploring Turner's interest in moonlight and firelight Mon-Sun 10am-5 50pm, ends 11 Nov, free Millbank, SW1 (0171-887 8000) ⊖ Pimlico

PENARTH
TURNER HOUSE GALLERY **Sutherland In Wales** Paintings exploring the artist's obsession with the country Tue-Sun 10am-12 45pm & 2pm-5pm, ends 26 Jul. £1.25, child & concs 75p Plymouth Road (01222-708870)

PENZANCE
PENLEE HOUSE GALLERY & MUSEUM **Walter Langley** Major exhibition of the 19th century painter Mon-Sat 10 30am-4.30pm, Sun 2pm-4 30pm, ends 30 Aug. £2, £1 concs. Morrab Road (01736-363625)

PLYMOUTH
PLYMOUTH ARTS CENTRE **Claustrophobia** Major show featuring Mona Hatoum and Rachel Whiteread. Mon 10am-7pm, Tue-Sat 10am-8pm, Sun 5pm-8pm, ends 2 Aug. free Looe Street (01752-660060)

SOUTHAMPTON
SOUTHAMPTON CITY ART GALLERY **Pre-Raphaelite Women Artists** Portraiture, landscape and allegorical works. Tue-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 1pm-4pm ends 2 Aug, free (01703-832151)

CLASSICAL

LICHFIELD
THE CATHEDRAL **La Serenissima** Wide range of music by Antonio Vivaldi. Tonight 7.30pm. £7-£17. (01543-257557)

LONDON
ST JOHN'S, SMITH SQUARE **Linda Kitchen/Louise Winter** Mahler and Wolf lieder. Tonight 7pm. £8-£13.50. Smith Square, SW1 (0171-222 1061) ⊖ Westminster.

ST BRIDE'S CHURCH **An Evening of Music** Charity chamber concert. Tonight 7pm. £10, from 0171-352 5432. St. Brides Avenue, EC4 (01850-914024) ⊖ Blackfriars.

WIGMORE HALL **Yehudi Menuhin School** Solo and chamber music from the Baroque to the present day. Tonight 7.30pm. £6-£12. Wigmore Street, W1 *(0171-935 2141) ⊖ Bond Street.*

OPERA

LONDON
DRILL HALL ARTS CENTRE **Die Fledermaus** New Music Theatre London production of Strauss' operetta for the BOC Covent Garden Festival. Tue-Sun 7.30pm, ends 11 Jul. £14 & £16, concs £10. Chenies Street, WC1 (0171-637 8270) ⊖ Goodge Street.

DANCE

LONDON
COCHRANE THEATRE **British Gas Ballet Central** Jazz and contemporary styles are fused with classical ballet. Tonight 7.30pm. £9.50, concs £6.50. Southampton Row, WC1 (0171-242 7040) ⊖ Holborn.

COLOUR HOUSE THEATRE **Purple Turtle Dance Company: Square Peg - *Round Hole*** Exploring teen angst and youth culture. Tonight 8pm. £5, concs £4. Merton Abbey Mills, off Merantun Way, SW19 (0181-545 0948) ⊖ Colliers Wood/South Wimbledon.

HOLLAND PARK THEATRE **The Royal Ballet School** Annual performance from one of the world's finest dance academies. Tonight 8pm. £18, concs £13, mat £13. Kensington High Street, W8 (0171-602 7856) ⊖ High Street Kensington

LITERATURE

LONDON **PHYLLIDA LLOYD** Director discusses her current production of The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie. **National Theatre: Lyttelton** South Bank SE1 (0171-452 3000) BR/⊖ Waterloo. Tonight 6pm, £3.50, concs £2 50

TOTNES **WAR WORDS: KATE ADIE** The famed BBC war correspondent talksabout her experiences in opening Festival talk. Today 2.30pm, £7

TOO TRUE: BLAKE MORRISON Morrison reads from his collection of stories and journalism Too True Today 5 30pm, £6 50

COMEDY

LONDON
CHANNEL 4 SITCOM FESTIVAL AT RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Triple bill of sitcoms performed live featuring Black Books by Dylan Moran Members Only by Amanda Swift and Off The Road by Dan Gooch Tonight 7 30pm £10, concs £8 ends 11 Jul Crisp Road, W6 (0181-237 1111) ⊖ Hammersmith.

THE COMEDY STORE The Comedy Store Players with Neil Mullarkey, plus others TBC Tonight 8pm £11 Oxendon Street, SW1 (01426-914433/cc 0171-344 4444) ⊖ Piccadilly Circus

LEE MACK - RETURN OF THE MACK AT CANAL CAFE THEATRE *The host of* Channel 4's Gas Tonight 8pm, £5 Bridge House Pub Delamere Terrace, W2 (0171-289 6054) ⊖ Royal Oak

CLUBS

LONDON
THE MYRIAD BALL AT THE MINISTRY OF SOUND HIV fund-raiser with Anne Savage, Fat Tony and Craig Jensen at the decks. Nobody over 17 years old will be admitted and *no alcohol will be served.* Tonight 9pm-2am Gaunt Street SE1 (0171-378 6528) ⊖ Elephant & Castle £25 (group discounts available)

SWERVE AT THE VELVET ROOM Fabio and Grooverider roll the beats. Tonight 10pm late Charing Cross Road WC2 (0171-439 4655) ⊖ Tottenham Court Road £5

EVENTS

CAMBRIDGE
MEAN TIME - TRESPASS THEATRE Fast moving multi-media performance where seven characters escape from a dull repetitive existence into a fantasy world. **Cambridge Drama Centre** Covent Garden (01223-322748) 9pm, ends 11 Jul, £6.75, concs £4.75.

LONDON
PADDINGTON BEAR EXHIBITION Scenes including Aunt *Lucy in Peru and Paddington at a tea party*, plus Michael Bond's first manuscript and the original puppet used for the animated series. **London Toy And Model Museum** Craven Hill W2 (0171-706 8000/402 5222) ⊖ Paddington/Lancaster Gate. Mon-Sun 9am-5.30pm (last adm. 4.30pm), ends 6 Sep, £5.50, child £3.50, concs £4.50, under 4s free, family £15.

29TH NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF MUSIC FOR YOUTH: CHILDREN'S EVENT Four days of music making by UK youths. **Royal Festival Hall** South Bank SE1 (0171-960 4242) BR/⊖ Waterloo. 10am-8pm, ends 9 Jul, phone for details.

MUSIC
POP

BRIGHTON
SEEKER, BREEZE Leftish indie double-bill. **The Lift** Queens Road (01273-730515) Tonight 8pm, £2, concs £1.

LONDON
BODALAINE, CHRIS CHAVEZ Rambling duo mix African and Celtic roots music to launch their album, while Chavez plays hypnotic mandolin stuff. **12 Bar Club** Denmark Place WC2 (0171-916 6989) ⊖ Tottenham Court Road. Tonight 8pm, £5.

NEW RISING, NIGHT NURSE North East soundscapers signed to Jealous, with the Gary Crowley XFM seal of approval. **The Borderline** Manette Street W1 (0171-734 2095) ⊖ Tottenham Court Road. Tonight 8pm, £5.

SUPER ELECTRIC, COMPASS Shambolic, hypnotic heaven from the headlining quintet. **Bull & Gate** Kentish Town Road NW5 (0171-485 5358) ⊖ Kentish Town. Tonight 8.30pm, £4, concs £3.50.

WORKHOUSE, FINGERBOWL, ATHLETICO STRIP, PEPADINE Melodic indie acts. **The Garage** Highbury *Corner N5 (0171-607 1818/cc* 0171-344 0044) ⊖ Highbury & Islington Tonight 8pm, £4.

HOWARD JONES 1980s pop superstar to showcase some new material. **Jazz Cafe** Parkway NW1 (0171-916 6060) ⊖ Camden Town. Tonight 8pm, £10-£12.

GRIFTER, ZERO ZERO, RUG **King's Head, Fulham** Fulham High Street SW6 (0171-736 1413) ⊖ Putney Bridge. Tonight 8pm, £3 50

MOMO House, Trance and funk all added to traditional Moroccan grooves **Whiteleys** Queensway W2 (0171-706 4100) ⊖ Queensway/Bayswater. Tonight 7.30pm, phone for prices.

MUSIC
JAZZ, WORLD, FOLK

CROYDON
DAN KNIGHT TRIO Quick thinking modern to modal US pianist. **Croydon Clocktower, Braithwaite Hall** Katharine Street (0181-253 1030) Tonight 8pm, £6, concs £4

LONDON
ARNIE SOMOGYI High profile bassist's new trio project. **606 Club** Lots Road SW10 (0171-352 5953) ⊖ Fulham Broadway/Earls Court. Tonight 9.30pm & 12midnight, £4 95

JOHN ALTMAN BIG BAND Vocalist Joan Viskant fronts film composer's jazzy ensemble. **Heathcote Arms** Grove Green Road E11 (0181-988 0011) ⊖ Leytonstone. Tonight 8.45pm, £3, concs £2.

BOB MARTIN TRIO Former Buddy Rich alto soloist leads trio gig and jam session. **Owl'n'Pussycat** Red Church Street EC2 (0171-739 2808) ⊖ Old Street. Tonight 8 30pm, free.

THE WORLD OF MICHAEL GARRICK Continuing residency for bop piano veteran **Pizza on the Park** Knightsbridge SW1 (0171-235 5273) ⊖ Hyde Park Corner Tonight 9.15pm & 11 15pm, £18, adv £16.

THREEWAY Milesish trumpeter Loz Speyer's *modernistic* trio **The Plough** Museum Street WC1 (0171-636 7964) ⊖ Tottenham Court Road. Tonight 8.30pm, £4, concs £3.

CHICO FREEMAN QUARTET Modern and contemporary saxist, nephew of the great George Coleman. **Ronnie Scott's** Frith Street W1 (0171-439 0747) ⊖ Leicester Square. Tonight 9.30pm & 11 15pm, £15, mems £4, NUS £8

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WEDNESDAY RADIO

RADIO 1
(97.6-99.8MHz FM)
6.30 Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball. **9.00** Simon Mayo. **12.00** Jo Whiley. **2.00** Mark Radcliffe. **4.00** Dave Pearce. **6.30** Steve Lamacq - the Evening Session. **8.30** Movie Update with Mark Kermode. **8.40** John Peel. **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs. **1.00** Clive Warren. **4.00 - 6.30** Chris Moyles.

RADIO 2
(88-90.2MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Kennedy. **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan. **9.30** Ken Bruce. **12.00** Jimmy Young. **2.00** Ed Stewart. **5.05** John Dunn. **7.00** Nick Barraclough. **8.00** Mike Harding. **9.00** The Andy Peebles Soul Show. **10.00** Johnnie Walker. **10.30** Richard Allinson. **12.05** Steve Madden. **3.00 - 4.00** Alex Lester.

RADIO 3
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air.
9.00 Masterworks.
10.30 Artist of the Week.
11.00 Sound Stories.
12.00 Composers of the Week: Byrd and Tallis.
1.00 Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert.
2.00 The BBC Orchestras.
4.00 Choral Evensong.
5.00 In Tune.
7.30 Performance on 3. The second of three concerts in which Alfred Brendel plays all of Beethoven's piano concertos. Conductors George Benjamin and Volker Schmidt-Gertenbach, Alfred Brendel (piano), Valdine Anderson (soprano), Sinfonia Varsovia. Beethoven: Piano Concerto No 2 in B flat. Benjamin: A Mind of Winter. Beethoven: Piano Concerto No 3 in C minor.
9.10 Postscript. Five programmes this week in which Kathleen Griffin visits European spas. 3: 'Lake Balaton - the Revolutionary Spa'. The largest lake in Central Europe, where, in the mid-19th century, writers and artists met to plot against the Hapsburg Empire. (R)
9.30 Cologne Radio Symphony Orchestra. Conductors Karlheinz Stockhausen, Bruno Maderna and Michael Gielen. Stockhausen: Gruppen.
10.00 The Piano. With Piers Lane. 'The Piano and Dance'. Weber, arr Tausig: Invitation to the Dance. Benno Moiseiwitsch. Bach: English Suite No 2, BWV807 (Bourrees). Ivo Pogorelich. Brahms: Hungarian Dance No 5. Yaara Tal and Andreas Groethuysen. Chopin: Polonaise in A flat, Op 53. Shura Cherkassky. Chopin: Mazurka, Op 33 No 4. Ignaz Friedman. Chabrier: Bouree Fantasque. Allan Schiller. Schulz-Evler: Concert Arabesques on Strauss's Blue Danube Waltz. Josef Lhevinne.
10.45 Night Waves. Laura Cumming explores the many faces of Carmen as a new production of Bizet's opera transplants the heroine to the 21st century as queen of the cyber chicks. Plus news from the world premiere of 'The Peony Pavilion', a 22-hour-long piece of Kunju opera about a beautiful woman and her dream lover, written by the man described as the Shakespeare of China, Tan Xianzu. It is being performed in New York in its entirety for the first time for modern audiences, who are encouraged to chat, eat and drink tea.
11.30 Jazz Notes.
12.00 Composer of the Week: Barber. (R)
1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4
(92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 Today.
9.00 Midweek.
9.45 Serial: Reflections.
10.00 NEWS; Woman's Hour.
11.00 NEWS; On Watch.
11.30 Frank Muir - a Kentish Lad Remembered.
12.00 NEWS; *You and Yours*.
12.57 Weather.
1.00 The World at One.
1.30 Wordly Wise. (R)
2.00 NEWS; The Archers.
2.15 Afternoon Play: John Dodd Gets Taken for a Ride. See *Pick of the Day*
3.00 NEWS; Gardeners' Question Time.
3.30 The Great Outdoors. (R)
3.45 Fictional Familiars.
4.00 NEWS; Four Walls.
4.30 Thinking Allowed.
5.00 PM.
5.57 Weather.
6.00 Six O'Clock News.
6.30 Audio Diaries. (R)
7.00 NEWS; The Archers.
7.15 Front Row. Mark Lawson investigates the latest transatlantic cartoon import, *South Park*.
7.45 Under One Roof: What's inside a Girl?. By Mike Walker, based on the original story by Michele Hanson. With Paola Dionisotti, Edna Dore and Luisa Bradshaw-White. Director Marilyn Imrie (3/5).
8.00 NEWS; *The Moral Maze*. Michael Buerk and his team of regulars cross-examine 'witnesses' about their views on the moral questions behind one of the week's headlines.
8.45 World Cup Letters. Simon Barnes of the Times and the Spectator presents from France a wry look at an event all too often characterised by bluster and hyperbole.
9.00 NEWS: State of Emergency. *In the second of two programmes*, Peter Curran meets the technologists who are attempting to design out danger from the next generation of trains, planes and buildings.
9.30 Midweek. Libby Purves talks to guests including the director of Kew Gardens, Sir Ghillean Prance.
10.00 The World Tonight.
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Setting the World on Fire. Simon Russell Beale reads Angus Wilson's social comedy about postwar aristocracy, theatre, architecture and anarchy. Abridged by Neville Teller (3/10).
11.00 *The Way It Is. Satire, sketches* and a hard look behind the week's media events from Sanjeev Bhaskar, Simon Evans, Dave Lamb and Fiona Allen.
11.30 *The Mark Steel Revolution.*
12.00 News.
12.30 The Late Book: Bombay Ice.
12.48 Shipping Forecast.
1.00 As World Service.
5.30 World News.
5.35 Shipping Forecast.
5.40 Inshore Forecast.
5.45 Prayer for the Day.
5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

RADIO 4 LW
(198kHz)
9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. **12.00 - 12.04** *News Headlines; Shipping* Forecast. **5.54 - 5.57** Shipping Forecast. **11.30 - 12.00** Today in Parliament.

RADIO 5 LIVE
(693, 909kHz MW)
6.00 The Breakfast Programme.
9.00 Nicky Campbell.
12.00 The Midday News.
1.00 Ruscoe and Co.
4.00 Nationwide.
7.00 News Extra.
7.30 World Cup 98. John Inverdale introduces full commentary from St-Denis on the second World Cup semi-final. Including the National Lottery Draw.
10.00 Late Night Live. With Nick Robinson. Including a late news briefing at 11.00, and at 11.15 The Financial World Tonight and a topical *late-night discussion*.
1.00 Up All Night.
5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM
(100.0-101.9MHz FM)
6.00 Nick Bailey. **8.00** Henry Kelly. **12.00** Requests. **2.00** Concerto. **3.00** Jamie Crick. **6.30** Newsnight. **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. **9.00** Evening Concert. **11.00** Alan Mann. **2.00** Concerto. **3.00 - 6.00** Mark Griffiths.

VIRGIN RADIO
(1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 105.8MHz FM)
7.00 Chris Evans. **10.00** Russ Williams. **1.00** Nick Abbot. **4.00** Robin Banks/FM only Ray Cokes from 6.45pm. **7.30** Ray Cokes. **10.00** Mark Forrest. **2.00** Caimin Jones. **5.00 - 7.00** Jeremy Clark.

WORLD SERVICE
(198kHz LW)
1.00 Newsdesk. **1.30** From Our Own Correspondent. **1.45** Britain Today. **2.00** Newsdesk. **2.30** Omnibus. **3.00** Newsday. **3.30** Meridian (Books). **4.00** World News. **4.05** World Business Report. **4.15** Sports Roundup. **4.30** The World Today (0430-0700)/Insight (SW 5875kHz only). **4.45** Off the Shelf: Candide (SW 5875kHz only). **5.30** Outlook (SW 7235kHz only). **5.55** Music Brief (SW7235kHz only).

TALK RADIO
6.30 The New Talk Radio Breakfast Show Kirsty Young with Bill Overton. **9.00** Scott Chisholm. **12.00** Lorraine Kelly. **2.00** Tommy Boyd. **4.00** *Peter Deeley*. **7.00** Anna Raeburn. **9.00** James Whale. **1.00** Ian Collins and the Creatures of the Night. **5.00** Bill Overton.

PICK OF THE DAY

THE SUCCESS of Spoonface Steinberg – whose heroine was, you'll remember, autistic – seems to have inspired a small vogue for radio drama about people with mental disabilities of one sort or another. A month or two back there was the childlike hero of *Pigs' Paradise*, and now there's **John Dodd Gets Taken for a Ride (2.15pm R4)**. Richard Lumsden's *(right)* play consists largely of a monologue spoken by the simple-minded John, whose parents have kept him hidden away since birth. Everything he knows about the world he has picked up from peeking through windows, listening to next door's radio and during night-time outings in his parents' car. A nice performance by Peter *Gunn and careful production*, but that's quite enough wisdom-in-simplicity for now.

ROBERT HANKS

SATELLITE AND CABLE

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1
5.00 Stagecoach (1966) (42175). **8.00** Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness on the Planet of the Apes (1974) (43720972). **9.40** Little Shop of Horrors (1986) (8130460). **11.20** To Face Her Past (1996) (34933021). **1.00** Stagecoach (1966) (49205). **3.00** Almost An Angel (1990) (72330). **5.00** Little Shop of Horrors (1986) (87392). **7.00** To Face Her Past (1996) (87953). **9.00** Kingpin (1996) (64953). **11.00** Temptress (1995) (875682). **12.35** *The Nurse (1995)* (447248). **2.30** The Last Hard Men (1976) (288644). **4.50 - 6.00** Star 80 (1983) (56924083).

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2
5.00 Hollywood Cavalcade (1939) (40717). **8.00** Tom, Dick and Harry* (1941) (56585). **10.00** Merlin's Shop of Mystical Wonders (1997) (16392). **12.00** The Underworld (1997) (79446). **2.00** Tom, Dick and Harry* (1941) (71243). **4.00** Hollywood Cavalcade (1939) (1088). **6.00** The Underworld (1997) (54798). **7.30** *El News Week in Review* (36021). **8.00** Rough Magic (1995) (63224). **10.00** Species (1995) (802514). **11.50** Dialogue (1996) (735798). **1.40** Under Oath (1996) (636606). **3.15** Sharon's Secret (1995) (570422). **4.50 - 6.30** The Dragon That Wasn't, Or Was He? (8342441).

SKY MOVIES GOLD
6.00 The Lady Eve* (1941) (2077330). **6.00** JFF (1999) (2735392). **8.00** Purple Rain (1984) (247137). **10.00** Young Guns (1988) (8449585). **11.50** Alien Nation (1988) (6814243). **1.20** Gardens of Stone (1987) See *Pick of the Day* (1074335). **3.15-5.05** McQ (1974) (8184002).

TRAVO
7.00 The A-Team (8068663). **9.00** Real Stories of the Highway Patrol (4944156). **10.30** Cops (7061514). **10.00** Italian Stripping Housewives (2167021). **10.30** World Cup Undercover (2183069). **11.00 Film:** Let's Get Laid! (1977) (3255885). **1.00** Beverly Hills Bordello (1115373). **1.30** Italian *Stripping Housewives* (3202793). **2.00** Real Stories of the Highway Patrol (3628606). **2.30 Film:** Rocky (1976) (1979149). **4.45** The Cutter (80202880). **5.00 - 6.00** The A-Team (3477101).

DISCOVERY CHANNEL
10.00 Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures II (3731885). **4.30** Top Marques (9737069). **5.00** First Flights (1637330). **5.30** History's Turning Points (9771021). See *Pick of the Day* **6.00** Animal Doctor (9718934). **6.30** *The Giraffe of Etosha* (7335427). **7.30** Arthur C Clarke's Mysterious Universe (9738798). **8.00** Animal X (1639514). **8.30** Arthur C Clarke's Mysterious Universe (1612021). **9.00** Ultimate Guide (8082601). **10.00** Crocodile Hunter (8092088). **11.00** Professionals (2075953). **12.00** First Flights (7857199). **12.30** Top Marques (9262915). **1.00** Bear Attack (5872489). **2.00** Close.

SKY 1
7.00 Tattooed Teenage Alien Fighters from Beverly Hills (72021). **7.30** Games World (1382866). **7.45** The Simpsons (93779). **8.15** *The Oprah Winfrey Show* (8129682). **9.00** Hotel (46779). **10.00** Another World (80040). **11.00** Days of Our Lives (77576). **12.00** Married with Children (11359). **12.30** M*A*S*H (5722791). **12.55** The Special K Collection (96683175). **1.00** Geraldo (9880798). **1.55** The Special K Collection (22690088). **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (7246327). **2.55** The Special K Collection (2288576). **3.00** Jenny Jones (3361576). **3.55** The Special K Collection (9189427). **4.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show - Elton John (57175). **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (8514). **6.00** The Nanny (3175). **6.30** Married with Children (4427). **7.00** The Simpsons (9243). **7.30** The Simpsons (3311). **8.00** Stargate SG-1 (76798). **9.00** The Outer Limits (56934). **10.00** Friends (12088). **10.30** Friends (98408). **11.00** Star Trek: Voyager (98069). **12.00** Nash Bridges (48977). **1.00 - 7.00** Long Play (5818335).

SKY SPORTS 1
7.00 Sky Sports Centre (5995446). **7.15** World Wrestling Federation Live Wire (820663). **8.15** Sky Sports Centre (4939576). **8.30** Racing News (42330). **9.00** Aerobics - Oz Style (33682). **9.30** European Tour Golf Magazine (78243). **10.00** Embassy World Eight Ball Championships (65779). **12.00** Aerobics - Oz Style (53446). **12.30** Rugby League Academy (73953). **1.30** The Pavilion End (74682). **2.30** Equestrianism - Smirnoff Cup (92779). **3.30** Golf (48392). **5.00** World Wrestling Federation Shot Gun (8156). **6.00** Sky Sports Centre (5137). **6.30** Snooker (63330). **8.30** Cricket - Nat West Trophy (28682). **10.00** World Cup Phone-in (200021). **10.45** Sky Sports Centre (855330). **11.00** Snooker (19885). **1.00** Sky Sports Centre (2551847). **1.15** World of Super League with Eddie and Stevo (475489). **3.15** World Cup Phone-in (3882915). **4.00** Sky Sports Centre (2741335). **4.15** Close.

SKY SPORTS 2
7.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (7432972). **7.30** Sky Sports Centre (5790408) **7.45** Racing News (5663601). **8.15** Fastrax (2975953). **8.45** Sky Sports Centre (2953934). **9.00** Fish TV (7714601). **9.30** Fish TV Fly Fishing (9173682). **10.00** The Pavilion End (7417663). **11.00** Golf (8338330). **12.30** Golf Extra (5345224). **3.30** Snooker (6989779). **5.30** Watersports World (1330243). **6.30** Winning Post (2850663). **8.30** World Eight Ball Championships (7606576). **10.30** Golf Extra (3808330). **1.30** Tour Weekly (7854847). **2.00** Close.

SKY SPORTS 3
12.00 World Wrestling Federation Shot Gun (48489576). **1.00** Fish TV - Tony Dean Outdoors (65771576). **1.30** Fish TV (48472040). **2.00** Superbouts Tapio v Soto (86552798). **3.00** The Entertainers (40123885). **3.30** Watersports World (28892514) **4.30** *Major League Baseball* (45847330). **6.30** V-Max (91786682). **7.00** Fish TV (40115868). **7.30** Fish TV (91782866) **8.00** World of Super League with Eddie and Stevo (27923595). **10.00** Greatest Moments in Sport (12923156). **10.30** Dickie Davies's Sporting Heroes Sir Tom Finney (86140392). **11.30** Close.

EUROSPORT
7.00 Football: World Cup 98 (77392). **8.00** Football: World Cup 98 (10935). **10.00** Tennis (3854717). **2.00** *Equestrianism* (10971). **3.00** World Cup 98 (59822). **5.00** Speedworld (3224). **6.00** Bowling (82446). **7.00** Darts (25088). **8.00** Boxing (91868). **9.00** Sumo (14972) **10.00** World Cup 98 (79311). **12.00** World Cup 98 (40266). **12.30** Close.

UK GOLD
7.00 Crossroads (2068663). **7.30** Neighbours (2380021) **7.55** EastEnders (3982021). **8.30** The Bill (2177408) **9.00** The Bill (2191088). **9.30** Stay Lucky (3741682). **10.30** The Sullivans (2180972) **11.00** Dallas (8659717). **11.55** Neighbours (89451972). **12.25** EastEnders (3833250). **1.00** All Creatures Great and Small (7051137). **2.00** Dallas (6281359). **2.55** The Bill (5009205). **3.25** The Bill (9207953). **3.55** *Dangerfield* (5074595) **4.55** EastEnders (9119601) **5.30** Wowtabgroovy (9720779). **6.00** All Creatures Great and Small (7064601). **7.00** The Comedy Alternative: Last of the Summer Wine (2510137). **7.40** Waiting for God (9598576). **8.20** The Comedy Alternative: Dad's Army (8991885). **9.00** One Foot in the Grave (4744427). **9.40 Film:** Jaws (1975) (91546069). **12.05** The Bill (3653828). **12.35** The Bill (9782118). **1.05** Paul Merton - the Series (5539644). **1.35** The Comic Strip Presents... Gino (1085625). **2.10** The Equalizer (9631422). **2.55 - 7.00** Shopping (20229002).

LIVING
6.00 Tiny Living (3404885). **9.00** Rolonda (5076682). **9.50** Jerry Springer (4268601). **10.40** The Young and the Restless (8985953). **11.30** Brookside (5596408). **12.00** Jimmy's (9412088). **12.35** Animal Rescue (93461446). **1.00** Rescue 911 (1035243). **1.30** Ready, Steady, Cook (3556750). **2.05** Rolonda (6652972). **2.55** Living It Up! (2452156). **3.55** Jerry Springer (2116798). **4.45** Tempest! (8709972). **5.35** *Ready, Steady, Cook* (4528866). **6.30** Jerry Springer (9835392). **7.00** Rescue 911 (2063137) **7.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles (9315330). **8.00** Adrenalin Junkies (2734663). **9.00 Film:** Lightning in a Bottle (1994) (2737750). **11.00** Sex Life Down Under (1012392). **12.00** Close.

TNT
9.00 Film: Get Carter (1971) (27920408). **11.00 Film:** MGM Milestones: Mad Love* (1935) (86161885). **12.30 Film:** Where the *Spies Are (1965)* (27820064) **2.45 Film:** Get Carter (1971) (86374996). **5.00** Close.

GRANADA PLUS
6.00 The Box (9256717). **7.00** On the Buses (8076175). **7.30** Nearest and Dearest (8055682). **8.00** Fenn Street Gang (2339069). **8.30** Mind Your Language (2321040). **9.00** Classic Coronation Street (2312392). **9.30** Emmerdale (1552953). **10.00** Jason King (8051866). **11.00** Hawaii Five-O (8064330). **12.00** Classic Coronation Street (2332156). **12.30** Emmerdale (3457589). **1.00** Up the Garden Path (8075446). **1.30** Army Game (8302430). **2.00** Within These Walls (8916885). **3.00** Jason King (2985311). **4.00** Hawaii Five-O (2904446). **5.00** Hart to Hart (7389021). **6.00** *Emmerdale* (5657088). **6.30** Coronation Street (5631040) **7.00** Doctor at Large (7380750). **7.30** Doctor on the Go (5637224) **8.00** Dempsey and Makepeace (9152040). **9.00** The Professionals (9149576) **10.00** The Comedians (2333885). **10.30** *The Wheelhappers' and* Shunters' Social Club (2319205). **11.00-2.00** Granada Men & Motors (7805885).

PICK OF THE DAY

HISTORY'S TURNING POINTS **(5.30pm Discovery Channel)**, Discovery's comprehensive documentary series, marches on. Tonight's programme looks at Napoleon's misjudged invasion of Russia in 1812; with hindsight, the brilliant military tactician and despot *(right)* would probably have acknowledged that the decision to invade during the winter wasn't one his best. This pre-emptive offensive, intended to strike a blow against a possible Russo-British alliance, cost his army dear – his men were ultimately defeated by hunger and the Russian winter. An even more bitter conflict took place in Vietnam a little more than 150 years later, and forms the backdrop for **Gardens of Stone (1.20am Sky Movies Gold)**, Francis Ford Coppola's revisionist meditation on the soldiers left on duty at Arlington Cemetery. James Caan, James Earl Jones and Anjelica Huston are the stars who don't really pass muster.

PETER CONCHIE

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC 1 IRELAND As BBC1 London except: **6.30 - 7.00** Newsline 6.30

BBC 1 SCOTLAND As BBC1 London except: **6.00** News **6.30 - 7.00** Reporting Scotland; Weather

BBC 1 WALES 2.05 Cricket - the NatWest Trophy Glamorgan v Leicestershire **2.50** Joins BBC1 **6.30 - 7.00** Wales Today **10.30** Cricket - the NatWest Trophy Glamorgan v Leicestershire **11.10** Film: Jennifer Eight **1.10** Film: 83 Hours 'Til Dawn **2.45 - 6.00** Joins BBC News 24

ANGLIA
As Carlton except: 12.20 Anglia News and Weather (4331311). **1.00** Home and Away: Jesse runs out of excuses for why Rachel cannot visit Kylie (91069). **2.00** The Jerry Springer Show: *Outrageous* American talk (2008205). **3.20** Anglia News (1744156). **6.00** Anglia News (971040). **10.30** Anglia News and Weather (681717). **11.15** Film: Gremlins 2: The New Batch (503866). **1.10** *Renegade (2199165)*. **4.00** ITV *Sport* Classics Tennis: Yvonne Goolagong (59738151). **4.25** Soundbites (15838170). **4.35** ITV Nightscreen (31757903). **5.00** Coronation Street (35489).

CENTRAL
As Carlton except: 12.20 Central News and Weather (4331311). **12.30** ITN News; Weather (92798). **1.00** A Country Practice (66446). **3.20** Central News (1744156). **5.10** Shortland Street: Serial set in an accident and emergency clinic in Auckland, New Zealand (5858069). **6.00** Home and Away (330717). **6.25** Central News and Weather (497576). **10.30** Central News, Weather and Travel Update (681717). **4.00** Jobfinder (3618985). **5.20** Asian Eye (8733977).

HTV WALES
As Carlton except: 10.10 This Morning (86504798). **12.15** HTV News (2051866). **1.00** Shortland Street (66446). **1.30** Home and Away: Vinnie fails to persuade Joey to part with his money. The gang decide on a plan of action for Lillian (91069). **2.00** The Jerry Springer Show (2008205). **3.20** HTV News (1744156). **6.00** Wales Tonight (971040). **10.30** HTV News (681717). **11.15** Film: Gremlins 2: The New Batch (503866). **1.10** *Renegade (2199165)*. **4.00** ITV Sport Classics Tennis: Yvonne Goolagong (59738151). **4.25** Soundbites (15838170). **4.35** ITV Nightscreen (31757903). **5.00** Coronation Street (35489).

HTV WEST
As HTV Wales except: 6.00 The West Tonight: All the latest news from around the west of England (971040).

MERIDIAN
As Carlton except: 10.10 This Morning (86504798). **12.15** Meridian News and Weather (2051866). **1.00** Shortland Street (66446). **1.30** Home and Away (91069). **2.00** The Jerry *Springer Show* (2008205). **3.20** Meridian News and Weather (1744156). **5.37** Three Minutes - Freescreen (749232). **6.00** Meridian Tonight (663). **10.30** Meridian News and Weather (681717). **11.15** The Road Show: Tim *Harvey and Paula Hamilton present* the motoring magazine (406972). **11.45** The Drew Carey Show (405243). **12.15** Renegade (808248). **4.00** ITV Sport Classics Tennis: Yvonne Goolagong (59738151). **4.25** Soundbites (15838170). **4.35** *ITV Nightscreen* (31757903). **5.00** Freescreen (35489).

WESTCOUNTRY
As Carlton except: 10.10 This Morning (86504798) **12.15** Westcountry News (2051866). **12.27** Illuminations (4349330). **1.00** Emmerdale (66446). **3.20** Westcountry News (1744156) **6.00** Westcountry Live (971040) **10.30** Westcountry News (681717) **11.15** Film: Gremlins 2: The New Batch The mean-spirited Muppet-like monsters return in a well thought-out sequel (503866) **1.10** *Renegade (2199165)* **3.35** Cybernet (58147644) **3.45** Vanessa (5333480) **4.30** Soundbites (91686793) **4.35** ITV Nightscreen (31757903) **5.00** Coronation Street (35489)

YORKSHIRE
As Carlton except: 10.10 This Morning (86504798) **12.15** Calendar News and Weather (2051866) **1.00** Home and Away Vinnie fails to persuade Joey to part with his money (25091779). **1.25** *The Jerry Springer* Show (9583779) **2.10** Emmerdale Kelly must make a difficult decision Biff and Tara have a close shave (3365330) **3.20** Calendar News and Weather (1744156) **5.40** News, Weather (273682). **5.55** Calendar (972048) **6.20** Tonight (412885) **10.30** Calendar News (681717). **4.15** Jobfinder (5104335).

TYNE TEES
As Yorkshire except: 12.15 North East News (2060514). **12.25** Joblink (4349330). **3.20** *North East News and Weather* (1744156). **5.55** North East Weather (349476). **6.00** North East Tonight (72777). **7.00** Emmerdale: Steve convinces the rest of the quarry gang that he can get them a better deal for the stolen stone (538717). **10.30** *North East News (681717)*.

S4C
As Channel 4 except: 12.00 Ricki Lake (64427). **12.30** Sesame Street (83040). **1.00** Slot Meithrin: Ty Chwith a *Smot y Ci (84088)*. **1.30** *The Three* Stooges* (49528601). **4.30** Countdown (840). **5.00** 5Pump Nics Nain (66544427). **5.15** 5Pump: Ffeil (3211778). **6.00** Newyddion 6 (761663). **6.10** Heno (999446). **7.00** Pobol y Cwm (241779). **7.25** *garej (5277798)* **8.00** Eisteddfod Gerddorol Gydwladol Llangollen 98 (1069). **8.30** Newyddion (5316). **9.00** Friends (8458). **9.30** Friends (70576). **10.00** Brookside (400069). **10.35** Ally McBeal (303717). **11.30** Film The Last Days of Chez Nous (184040). **1.15** Crawl (4280828). **3.00** Close

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS
WILLIAM HARTSTON

Michael Adams's win against Viswanathan Anand at Dortmund was a curious game in which neither player seemed to be in control when the critical moment arrived.

Adams's choice of a quiet variation of the closed Sicilian did not bring him much joy. When Anand played 13...cxb4! instead of the routine 13...axb4, White's game quickly became difficult. After Black's vigorous 18...a4 and 19...b3, White felt obliged to surrender material rather than suffer 20.cxb3 Rxb3 when his d-pawn must fall.

Having won the exchange, however, Black found that his position was not as good as he might have expected. The critical position arose after 24.Rb1 when the pin on the b-file is not easy to break. After the natural 24...Qb8, White has the choice between 25.Bg5 and 25.Qd1. Since any retreat of the rook to b7 is liable to be answered by e5, Black has no easy way to consolidate his material advantage.

Anand's 24...Qc7 returned the material immediately and Adams seized his chance with the excellent move 28.c5! giving up a pawn to ensure the advance of his a-pawn. White's plan in the resulting endgame was to infiltrate with his queen to f6, then launch a K-side attack. Anand wrecked his game trying to prevent it.

White: Michael Adams
Black: Viswanathan Anand
Dortmund 1998

1 e4 c5	**30** a6 Bd4
2 Nc3 Nc6	**31** Bf1 c4
3 g3 g6	**32** Qxc4 Qb2
4 Bg2 Bg7	**33** Qe2 Qc3
5 d3 d6	**34** Kg2 Bb6
6 Be3 Rb8	**35** Qa2 Qd4
7 Qd2 b5	**36** Qc2 e6
8 Nge2 Nd4	**37** Bb5 h6
9 0-0 b4	**38** Qe2 Qc5
10 Nd1 Nxe2+	**39** Qb2 g5
11 Qxe2 Nf6	**40** Bd3 g4
12 a3 a5	**41** Qf6 h5
13 axb4 cxb4	**42** Qf4 Kf8
14 Bd2 Nd7	**43** e5 Qd5+
15 Ra2 0-0	**44** Be4 Qd4
16 Ne3 Nc5	**45** Qh6+ Ke7
17 b3 Ba6	**46** Qf6+ Kf8
18 Nc4 a4	**47** Bc6 Kg8
19 bxa4 b3	**48** h4 gxh3+
20 Ra3 Bxc4	**49** Kxh3 Qa1
21 dxc4 Bb2	**50** Kg2 Qc1
22 Rxb3 Nxb3	**51** Bf3 h4
23 cxb3 Rxb3	**52** gxh4 Qc5
24 Rb1 Qc7	**53** Bh5 Qc6+
25 Bc1 Bxc1	**54** Qf3 Qc7
26 Rxb3 Rb8	**55** Qb7 Qxb7+
27 Rxb8+ Qxb8	**56** axb7 Bc7
28 c5 dxc5	**57** f4 resigns
29 a5 Bb2	

BRIDGE
ALAN HIRON

Love all; dealer North

North
♠K 4
♡K Q J 10 3
♢J 10 9 4
♣J 3

West
♠J 9 8 5 2
♡6
♢6 3 2
♣A 9 6 5

East
♠A Q 10 7
♡5 2
♢K 7 5
♣Q 10 8 2

South
♠6 3
♡A 9 8 7 4
♢A Q 8
♣K 7 4

If you have to play a suit such as North-South's clubs on this deal yourself, you have only one good chance of making a trick without losing two: that East holds the ace. The situation changes dramatically if East starts the suit by leading a low card and it is a capital mistake to consider the suit out of context. You can guarantee an eventual trick by playing low but may lose two in the process. Often it is right to go in with the king, for this is how you would have played the suit yourself and why should East have given you a chance by leading away from the queen?

On this deal, East passed and South's opening bid of One Heart was raised to game. West led ♠5 against Four Hearts and, after taking his two spade tricks, East switched to ♣2. After brooding about the points I made above, South decided to go in with his king. This led to the loss of the next two tricks and the contract.

While his play could well have been right in other circumstances, declarer missed a highly significant point. Whatever happened in clubs, the diamond finesse had to be right. To make the contract, therefore, it was essential for South to find East with ♢K. But, and it was a big but, East had already shown up with ♠A,Q and yet had dealt and passed. If he held ♣A and ♢K as well, he would have opened. The only chance of success, therefore, was to find East with the high cards that he actually held, namely ♢K and ♣Q. And so a low club from hand at trick three would have been both correct and successful.

PUZZLE

GOAL
NEAT
PEER
POST

Can you rearrange those 16 letters in a four-by-four square to read four different four-letter words both across and down?

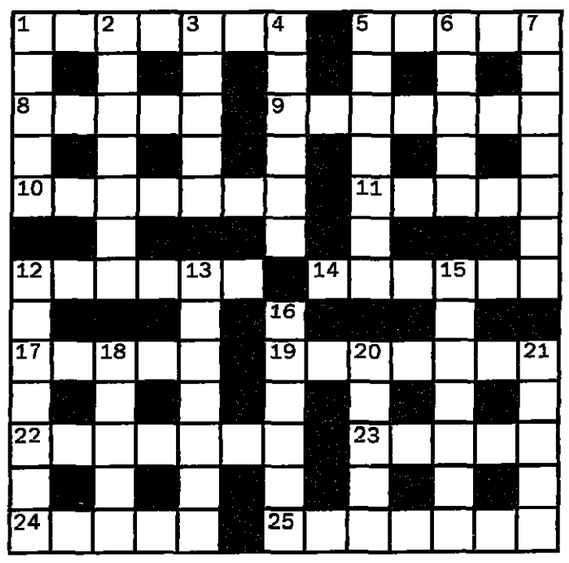
Yesterday's answers:

1) RAT (curate, pirate, castrate)
2) TAR (retard, starling, staring)
3) ARE (minaret, feared, nearest)

(Answer to today's puzzle will be given tomorrow.)

CONCISE CROSSWORD

No.3657 Wednesday 8 July



ACROSS
1 Give backing to (7)
5 Maritime towns (5)
8 Dreadful (5)
9 Hang with garlands (7)
10 Passage taken from book etc (7)
11 Praise highly (5)
12 Furrow (6)
14 Affirm (6)
17 Dialect (5)
19 Naval officer (7)
22 Suffering effects of sunburn? (7)
23 Picture surround (5)
24 Follow (5)
25 What plot often does? (7)

DOWN
1 Rub out (5)
2 Actually (2,5)
3 Governor (5)
4 Decadent (6)
5 Notices (7)
6 Perch (5)
7 Vest (7)
12 Catch sight of (7)
13 Type of bat (7)
15 Set aside for special purpose (7)
16 Captured (6)
18 Thoughts (5)
20 Plain clothes (5)
21 Weekend indulgence? (3-2)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Wreck, 4 Hordes (Records), 9 Parvenu, 10 Tubby, 11 Talc 12 Lampoon, 13 Lit, 14 Saga, 16 Sash, 18 Cam, 20 Boudoir, 21 Aria 234 Utter, 25 Amiable, 26 Encore, 27 Funny. DOWN: 1 Wapiti, 2 Enrol, 3 Keel, 5 Optimism, 6 Dubious, 7 Saying, 8 Quilt, 13 Labourer, 15 Aquatic, 17 Obtuse, 18 Creak, 19 Namely, 22 Robin, 23 Tiff.

THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

TELEVISION REVIEW

TUESDAY NIGHT is dedicated to transformation these days – with back-to-back celebrations of instant improvement from *Ground Force* and *Home Front*. But, last night, **Home Ground** (BBC2) – which sounds oddly like a hybrid of the two – easily won the makeover stakes with the story of Rosalind Mitchell, a Labour councillor in Bristol who had been elected by her constituents as a man, but had chosen to represent them as a woman – or rather as a pantomime dame. If that sounds a little unfeeling, I apologise, but the truth is that one's admiration for Rosalind's resilience can't really be separated from her strikingly blokeish appearance – the conspicuous compromise forced on transsexuals by the convention that they should live successfully as a woman for a year before being approved for surgery.

This is not so much a trial period as an endurance test, designed to discourage gender-change impulse buyers. After all, how do you live successfully as a woman when you walk like a man and talk like a man? "I'm conscious of people turning round to look at me," Rosalind said halfway through the programme. "I don't know why that happens." If she really meant it, then you would have good cause to wonder about her fitness for elective office. Uncynical zeal is one thing in a politician, naivety quite another. But the remark was less a genuine expression of bemusement, I think, than another brick in the wall – the pretension to normality being the only defensive barrier transsexuals can erect between themselves and gawping curiosity.

It must be hard keeping this artificial insouciance in good repair – steeling yourself to ignore the reactions of voters on the doorstep, the staff in clothes shops – and the effort can't be made any easier by the hostility of colleagues. While the national Labour party appeared to have been fairly understanding about Rosalind's decision, seeing it as an unusual challenge to their spinning abilities, the local party was proving considerably less open-minded and had not learned the first lesson of damage control – that trying to pretend reporters simply don't exist will always look furtive and underhand. Rosalind was fooling herself in some respects – although she was in arrears with her own council tax at one point, she seemed to think that concern about this fact was artificially got up by her enemies. "Any old stick to beat me with," she said disdainfully, a remark that suggested her protective denial of reality had got the better of her political instincts. But, at the end of the programme, it was her courage that got your vote, rather than her Labour colleagues' conservatism.

Rosalind could have usefully taken some make-up tips from Boy George, a self-taught master of slap who appeared on the first of a new series of **Ruby** (BBC2) on Monday night. This show has itself undergone a discreet makeover since the last time I saw it – the disconcerting background audience have disappeared and guest numbers appear to have been trimmed so that the camera (and therefore the viewer) doesn't feel quite as impertinently excluded from the charmed circle. Only a few angles contain an intervening shoulder, reminding you that you're essentially surplus to requirement, rather than a silent guest of honour. On Monday night, when Boy George was joined by Jeanne Moreau and Joanna Lumley, the conversation was something between a Beverly Hills coffee-klatsch ("But you look marvellous darling – I don't know what *you're* worried about") and personal therapy for the show's presenter, whose anxieties about life and career keep bobbing to the surface in a faintly monomaniacal way.

Quite properly, most of the audience won't give a damn for Ruby's worries about her emotional authenticity – the fact that she feels trapped behind a public front. All they will care about is whether the front continues to be entertaining or not. I don't think that the round table gives her quite as much scope for the intimate, sparring duets which are her real strength, but this first programme certainly had its moments – not least, Boy George's rebuttal of her suggestion that some of his former boyfriends had been straight. "Forgive me for being crude," he said, "but they were gay when they were sucking my cock." Ruby made a scissors gesture at the camera at this point, indicating that this line would be cut later, but BBC2 declined to perform the surgery.

BBC1

6.00 Business Breakfast (75779). **7.00** News (T) (38663). **9.00** All over the Shop (R) (S) (3203798). **9.20** Kilroy (S) (T) (3581576). **10.00** Meet the Challenge (S) (6981507). **10.25** Style Challenge Classics (S) (7016296). **10.55** News; Regional News; Weather (T) (1770601). **11.00** Golf (S) (4102819). **11.55** News; Regional News; Weather (T) (6368446). **12.00** Golf (S) (86137). **1.00** News; Weather (T) (31750). **1.30** Regional News and Weather (15197021). **1.40** Neighbours (S) (T) (49531175).

2.05 Cricket and Golf. Further coverage of the NatWest second-round match between Warwickshire and Kent. Plus, golf from the Loch Lomond World Invitational (S) (9248682).

3.35 Children's BBC: Pingu (R) (3508663). **3.40** Playdays (R) (S) (6698205). **4.00** Popeye (2908601). **4.10** To Me... to You (S) (T) (9407514). **4.35** The Wild House (R) (S) (T) (3351565). **5.00** Newsround (S) (T) (3209934). **5.10** Record Breakers (R) (S) (T) (6804175).

5.35 Neighbours (S) (T) (677476).

6.00 News; Weather (T) (595).

6 PM

6.30 Regional News (T) (175).

7 PM

7.00 Celebrity Ready Steady Cook. Community-serving Vinnie Jones and "former swimmer" (yes, just what does she do now?) Sharron Davies are the guests (2311).

7.30 CHOICE **World Cup 98 Live: France vs Croatia.** Des Lynam presents coverage of the second semi-final from the Stade de France in St Denis (kick-off at 8pm). This should be a tight one, even if Croatia were slightly flattered by that 3-0 result against the ageing, 10-man Germans. Suker will have his work cut out getting through the excellent French defences, while France's inability to score has been one of the features of the tournament. A goalless draw looks a good bet, with Zidane netting the winner in extra-time. John Motson and Trevor Brooking are the commentary team, but, as ever, we suggest you turn down the TV sound and tune into BBC Radio 5 Live's admirably tight and well-informed match description (with **National Lottery Draw** at 8.50pm *(111885)*) (S) (T) (726311).

8 PM

9 PM

10.00 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (72446).

10 PM

10.30 FILM **Jennifer Eight** (Bruce Robinson 1992 US). *Withnail & I* director Bruce Robinson's first Hollywood gig begins brilliantly, isn't at all bad for half its length and then fades off into implausibility. Andy Garcia is the burnt-out big-city homicide cop who thinks he has unearthed a serial killer in small-town northern California. He also believes that a blind Uma Thurman is the intended next victim. Is she the reason for his obsession with the case? His superiors think so (S) (T) (86595).

12.30 Cricket. Highlights from today's second-round NatWest Trophy game between Kent and Warwickshire at Edgbaston. With Tony Lewis, Jack Bannister and Richie Benaud (Followed by *Weatherview*).

1.25 Joins BBC News 24. To 6am.

BBC2

6.10 Mind Readers (7177934). **6.35** Clinical Trials (5602137).

7.00 Children's BBC: Teletubbies (S) (1023224). **7.25** Dink, the Little Dinosaur (1042359). **7.50** Get Your Own Back (R) (S) (T) (4779779). **8.15** Willy Fog (R) (T) (2639514). **8.35** Barney (R) (9803595). **8.45** The Record (S) (2300682). **9.10** Hawkeye (R) (3583934). **9.30** Cartoon (8504137). **10.00** Teletubbies (S) (8761589).

10.25 Cricket – the NatWest Trophy: Warwickshire vs Kent. The first of several visits today to Edgbaston for this second-round clash (S) (65949972).

12.45 Working Lunch (247156). **1.15** Cricket – the NatWest Trophy (S) (8985392). **2.40** News; Regional News; Weather (T) (8103953). **2.45** Westminster with Diana Madill (S) (T) (2142750). **3.55** News; Regional News; Weather (T) (9976862).

4.00 Golf and Cricket – the NatWest Trophy. Steve Rider presents live coverage of the Standard Life Loch Lomond World Invitational, while Tony Lewis has the latest from Edgbaston, where Warwickshire are taking on Kent in the NatWest second round (S) (7860953).

7.30 CHOICE **Leviathan.** Historical cures for male impotence. And will the Internet lead to a historical revolution of the magnitude of the Reformation? See *Documentary of the Day*, below (S) (601).

8.00 Two Fat Ladies. The cooks do hearty things to pork at a vintage motorcycle rally in the Lake District (9601).

8.30 Looking Good. Lowri Turner returns with the fashion and beauty series for "real women". First up – how to keep cool in a hot summer (that's a joke) office without raising corporate eyebrows (S) (T) (5408).

9.00 FILM **A Good Man in Africa** (Bruce Beresford 1993 US). William Boyd adapted his own comic novel about a frustrated British diplomat ordered by his superiors to ingratiate himself with a rising West African politician in the hope of winning valuable oil rights. In an almost classic example of miscasting, Aussie actor Colin Friels is the British civil servant and Louis Gossett Jr the rising politico. The way it's been put together turns wry fiction into a farce which borders on the offensive when it comes to depicting the Africans (6359).

10.30 Newsnight (T) (551427).

11.15 Ruby. Her dinner guests are Rhona Cameron and Joe Simpson (S) (T) (954750).

12.00 The Midnight Hour (66286). **12.30** BBC Learning Zone: Open University – Oceanography (11218). **1.00** The Changing Shape of the North Sea (40809). **1.30** Polar Oceans (95847). **2.00** Windrush: Carnival and Food (90538). **4.00** The French Experience I: 13 – 16 (34118). **5.00** RCN Nursing Update (23985). **5.30** RCN Nursing Update (5424996). **5.45** Open University: The Restless Pump (9857083). To 6.10am.

ITV Carlton

6.00 GMTV (1573663). **9.25** This Morning (T) (7052214). **9.30** Vanessa (S) (T) (1728972). **10.10** This Morning (T) (34684088). **12.20** Your Shout (4331311). **12.30** News; Weather (T) (92798). **1.00** London Today (T) (66446). **1.30** The Jerry Springer Show (S) (T) (5622156). **2.15** Home and Away (S) (T) (255175). **2.45** Supermarket Sweep (R) (S) (T) (254446). **3.15** ITN News Headlines (T) (1747243). **3.20** London Today (T) (1744158).

3.25 Children's ITV: Tots TV (R) (S) (1734779). **3.35** Titch (R) (S) (7140885). **3.45** Slim Pig (R) (7120021). **4.00** Chatterhappy Ponies (S) (T) (2900069). **4.10** Garfield and Friends (R) (2999953). **4.20** Waller Melon (T) (9498866). **4.45** The Scoop (S) (T) (3375175).

5.10 Home and Away (S) (T) (5858069).

5.40 News; Weather (T) (997750).

6.00 London Tonight. Regional news update for the capital and the South-East, including a local weather bulletin (T) (787601).

6.30 London Bridge. Capital soap. Ravi thinks he can have his cake and eat it, while Cliff takes Isobel on a surprise outing (S) (243).

7.00 Emmerdale. Steve gets into trouble at the quarry (S) (T) (4779).

7.30 Coronation Street. Monday night's scene where Roy and Hayley had their first kiss was *Carrie* at its best – touching, funny and beautifully written and acted. Tonight's episode continues their story (T) (427).

8.00 FILM **Another Stakeout** (John Badham 1993 US). The title captures the mild sense of ennui about this sequel to the action comedy *Stakeout*, featuring mismatched cops Richard Dreyfuss and Emilio Estevez. This time, they're joined by female assistant DA Rosie O'Donnell and her dog, as they go undercover to find a missing Mafia trial witness. Baddies Dennis Farina and Marcia Strassman are the film's highlights, and a dinner party involving the same is its best scene (S) (2021).

10.00 News; Weather (T) (67514).

10.30 London Tonight (T) (681717).

10.40 Fantasy World Cup Live. Bryan Ferry joins the New Lad millionaires (839717).

11.15 World Cup 98 – Encore. Highlights of tonight's semi-final between France and Croatia (824175)

12.20 FILM **Hell Hath No Fury** (Thomas J Wright 1990 US). Predictable post-*Fatal Attraction* thrills and spills as Barbara Eden plots revenge against the mistress (Loretta Swit) who murdered her husband (228441).

3.00 Fantasy World Cup Live (R) (3131575). **3.35** Cybernet (S) (16693002). **4.00** Soundtrax (S) (52142985). **4.45** ITV Nightscreen (5104315). To 5.30am.

Channel 4

6.00 Sesame Street (R) (S) (91717). **7.00** The Big Breakfast (S) (T) (54601).

9.00 FILM **Madonna of the Seven Moons** (Arthur Crabtree 1946 UK). Very silly Gainsborough melodrama starring Phyllis Calvert as a reserved Italian woman whose childhood traumas cause her to lead a double life as a fiery gypsy. Yup. Stewart Granger grins charmingly in support, where he's joined by the likes of Jean Kent, Dulcie Gray and Patricia Roc (36717).

11.00 On the Road to the Islands (8214) **11.30** Powerhouse (1663). **12.00** Sesame Street (S) (64427) **12.30** Light Lunch (R) (91224). **1.30** Collectors' Lot (49528601)

1.55 Channel 4 Racing from Newmarket. Features the 2.05, 2.35, 3.10 and 3.40 races (T) (93822224).

4.00 Fifteen to One (S) (T) (156). **4.30** Countdown (S) (T) (3345934). **4.55** Ricki Lake (R) (S) (T) (5822137)

5.30 Pet Rescue. An injured deer escapes the RSPCA centre. There's no helping some animals (S) (T) (392).

6.00 Party of Five. Julia and Griffin begin marriage therapy. Claudia falls for the son of an old family rival (S) (T) (960934).

6.50 Fresh Pop. Bands introduce their own videos (S) (492232).

7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather. Including headlines at 7.30pm (S) (T) (812243).

7.55 Talent School. Female secondary school students discuss their engineering lessons (S) (T) (315088).

8.00 Brookside. Dixon-Corkhill grief, while Marcus returns from California with exciting news. That it has an even higher murder rate than Brookside Close? (T) (1069).

8.30 The Italian Kitchen. Ruth Rogers and Rose Gray finish their stylish series of River Café cookbook recipes with a look at puddings (S) (T) (5316)

9.00 Designs on Your... Car. In the last of this design series, Richard Seymour and Dick Powell attempt to give the electric car some street credibility. They join forces with the Norwegian manufacturer Pivco to see whether they can make their dinky little two-seater look like something Mondeo Man would be happy to be seen in (S) (T) (9311).

10.00 Ally McBeal. You can see that obesity might be an issue in this beautiful-people sitcom. Ally becomes the object of an obese lawyer's affections after she saves his life (S) (T) (768595).

10.55 Cybill. Shunted from her usual Friday-night slot by the new series of *Friends*, Cybill is depressed when she fails to win her fifth consecutive Golden Globe award for the most stupid death scene (S) (T) (834205).

11.25 Darling (T) (434906) **12.00** Weekly Planet (18018). **1.30** Under the Moon. World Cup Special (81539). **3.00** Innovation Sport (R) (S) (T) (2934377).

4.00 FILM **Man on a Tightrope** (Elia Kazan 1953 US) Wobbly, based on fact Cold War drama about a Czech circus owner (Fredric March) and his plans to escape into Austria with his troupe. Gloria Grahame and Adolphe Menjou are also involved (354847). To 5.55am.

Channel 5

6.00 5 News and Sport (S) (3819427). **7.00** WideWorld (R) (S) (T) (1909514). **7.30** Milkshake! (S) (9215576). **7.35** Wind in the Willows (R) (4346446). **8.00** Havakazoo (S) (3016408). **8.30** Dappledown Farm (R) (3015779) **9.00** Song of the Seal (R) (S) (T) (3039359). **9.30** Russell Grant's Postcards (94214446) **9.35** The Oprah Winfrey Show (R) (6322088) **10.20** Sunset Beach (4361243) **11.10** Leeza (S) (6600137). **12.00** 5 News at Noon (3019505). **12.30** Family Affairs (3649750). **1.00** The Bold and the Beautiful (1008885) **1.30** Sons and Daughters (3648021) **2.00** 100 Per Cent Gold (S) (5601092) **2.30** Open House with Gloria Hunniford (S) (8561205)

3.30 FILM **The Shop at Sly Corner** (George King 1948 UK). Bookkeeper Kenneth Griffith blackmails his antiques-dealer boss, Oscar Homolka, after he learns of his fugitive past. Not that Homolka worries for himself, of course, but he's scared for the future of his violinist daughter (Muriel Pavlow). This stagey old melodrama was based on a play by Edward Percy (1968796).

5.10 The Oprah Winfrey Show. Fashion tips for the fuller figure (S) (5413576)

6.00 100 Per Cent. The gameshow without a host. We don't have the viewing figures (S) (1032576).

6.30 Family Affairs. Nick tells Angus that divorcing Barbara may have been the biggest mistake of his life. Maybe he should tell Barbara (S) (T) (1056156).

7.00 5 News, Including First on Five. And she's off (S) (T) (5612408).

7.30 The Pepsi Chart. Guests are the 15-year-old pop sensation Billie, *Coronation Street* hunk-turned-crooner, Matthew Marsden, and Ultra Nate (S) (1045040)

8.00 CHOICE **Shadowlands** (Richard Attenborough 1993 UK) Terrific weepie cataloguing C S Lewis's late-flowering romance with American poet Joy Gresham. See *Film of the Day*, below (S) (T) (10096953)

10.25 FILM **Stay Hungry** (Bob Rafelson 1976 US). Underrated Altmanesque comedy – based on a Charles Gaines novel – about quirky drifters inhabiting the roofless New South. Jeff Bridges is the young Alabama heir whose property speculation includes a body-building gym whose eccentric inmates (including a young Arnold Schwarzenegger) capture his imagination. Bridges' social drift continues when he finds love with tough, working-class Sally Field (6640966)

12.20 Compromising Situations. Still from 8/7/97 (?)

12.55 Live and Dangerous (S) (4884349). **1.25** Live and Dangerous (Continued) (S) (8743976) **4.40** Prisoner: Cell Block H (1438170). **5.30** 100 Per Cent (S) (3037889) To 6am.

TELEVISION GUIDE BY GERARD GILBERT

MATCH OF THE DAY

FRANCE VS CROATIA (7.30pm BBC1, *right*) There's a lot to be said for seeing yourself as a loser, especially if you happen to be a nation state. In the case of France, this has been expressed in the host country's sang-froid throughout this World Cup – the lack of hype, the refusal to turn football into a matter of life and death. Is this all about to change? Will tricoloURS start appearing on Paris taxis, will Lyonnais louts come over here and smash up our pubs? Or will the furtive dream end in St Denis tonight (kick-off at 8pm), as Croatia emerge as the true dark horses of the tournament? *Eh bien*, the French will shrug, we didn't really care that much anyway.

DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY

LEVIATHAN (7.30pm BBC2) The entertaining series which believes that history repeats itself – and not just as farce – continues with a 50th-anniversary look at the National Health Service. Apparently, it was far from safe in Labour's hands back in 1948, and BBC Social Affairs Editor Niall Dickson uncovers Cabinet battles between Nye Bevan and Hugh Gaitskell over the NHS's escalating costs. Edwina Currie (*right*), meanwhile, ponders the miracle of Viagra, and tours history for other impotence "cures", while Lisa Jardine wonders whether, since the invention of printing led to the Reformation, the Internet might herald a similar revolution.

FILM OF THE DAY

SHADOWLANDS (8pm C5) The wider currents of early Fifties Britain don't get much coverage in Richard Attenborough's classy little weepie, an 1993 adaptation of William Nicholson's stage hit. This is a tad surprising given that Attenborough made both *Gandhi* and *Cry Freedom*. Still, there's much to enjoy here. The role of buttoned-up theologian, children's author and Oxford don C S Lewis fits Anthony Hopkins (*right*) like an old glove – while Debra Winger, as the sharp-witted American poet Joy Gresham, who pulls Lewis out of his musty bachelorhood, is a braver piece of casting. Edward Hardwicke shines in support.